



**House Committee on Taxation
Testimony in Opposition to House Bills 2370 and 2381
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bills 2370 and 2381, which offer strategies to fund transportation projects through increasing motor fuel taxes.

Back in 2010, our organization stood in opposition to the T-Works transportation plan and the increase in the state sales tax rate from 5.3 to 6.3%. Four tenths of a percent were then dedicated to funding the new comprehensive transportation plan. Our opposition focused on the fact that more than \$1 billion had been taken from the state highway fund between 1999 and 2010. We stated that if the Governor at the time would stop taking money from KDOT, a tax increase would not be necessary. Existing revenue resources were more than enough to handle the needs of the state.

Fast forward to 2019, according to data on the Kansas Department of Transportation website, more than \$2 billion in transfers have been made to SGF spending since 2010 with revenues dedicated to being spent on infrastructure investments.

Our opposition to the two bills before you today is identical to 2010. Because of the legislature's inability to honor commitments and control state spending without unconstitutional fee sweeps (recent court cases have hopefully ended this practice), or SGF transfers from revenue sources that are intended be spent elsewhere, there is no need to place a higher tax burden on Kansans as proposed under these two bills.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bills 2370 and 2381, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.