



## **Kansas Press Association, Inc.**

*Dedicated to serving and advancing the interests of Kansas newspapers*

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Feb. 8, 2012

To: Rep. Lance Kinzer, chairman, and members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Doug Anstaett, executive director, Kansas Press Association

Re: House Bill 2549

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

I am Doug Anstaett, executive director of the Kansas Press Association.

The Kansas Press Association has a tradition of supporting legislation that opens up government meetings and records to the citizens of our great state.

Because of significant advances in technology, the way we communicate with each other has changed drastically in the past 25 years. The days of the hand-written letter are gone. Even telephone discussions often have been replaced by e-mails, texts and tweets.

But how we deal with the preservation of these new electronic communications has not kept pace. HB 2549 would preserve for historical purposes the business of government that is done through digital means.

Why is this important? Simply, our system of government relies on an informed citizenry. To be informed on the issues, citizens need access to the discussions that lead to the decisions that affect them. Often today, many of those discussions take place in an electronic format.

To continue to hold public officials accountable, information must be preserved, and the discussions and actions of our government are chief among that information whether they take place in person, by telephone, by text or by e-mail.

If we do not include such communications in the public records preservation act, much information will be concealed from citizens or lost to those who write the history of our state in the future.

KPA wholeheartedly supports this legislation. Thank you.