

RE: Proponent ORAL testimony for HB 2420 – Military Surplus Vehicles

January 22, 2020

Dear Chairman Proehl and House Transportation Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide oral testimony in favor of HB2420 – a bill relating to the registration and regulation of military surplus vehicles. This past summer, one of Augusta's local entrepreneurs approached me with a problem related to licensing military vehicles in Kansas. Though the U.S. Military may sell surplus vehicles in Kansas, there is no statute that allows these purchased vehicles to be driven on Kansas roadways. For this local entrepreneur who has developed a start-up business around rehabbing and servicing these vehicles – this was a serious economic disincentive for both buyers of the refurbished military vehicles, specifically Humvees, and sellers. Currently, Global Parts Auto Group, Inc, has 15 employees that work on both Hummers and Humvees – vehicles sent from all over the United States to Kansas. Without a change in Kansas statutes, their growing business and others like it, would be restricted by unnecessary and antiquated laws that simply do not support this emerging industry.

The vehicles being updated and made available to civilians are road safe and have the necessary safety features as required by law to safely operate. In fact, the Hummers and the Humvees have the same structural frames – the difference comes down to original purpose and cost to own. To ensure their safety and readiness for public roads, an inspection is required before a license is provided.

It's my hope that our Legislature will update our statutes to allow the licensing of approved military surplus vehicles, upon passing inspection, for a special interest plate. It's an economic win for our State, for our communities, and for our families interested in this unique investment – and at the same time, it supports our U.S. Military.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide positive testimony for HB 2420.

Sincerely,

Rep. Kristey Williams