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Ash Grove Cement Company – Jacqueline K. Clark: SUPPORT HB 2367 and 2368

Chairman Johnson, Vice Chairman Mason and House Taxation Committee members, I am Jacqueline Clark, Ash Grove Cement Company's head of government relations. I offer comments from our company in support of your efforts to secure additional revenue to invest in transportation projects in Kansas. I regret that I am unable to join you this afternoon.

As you know, Ash Grove's corporate office is located in Overland Park. We are in our 137th year in the cement manufacturing business. You may be aware that our company was purchased by CRH, plc., and we to continue operating here with "business as usual." Many of you are familiar with our Chanute cement manufacturing plant where more than 125 employees are located.

For many years, Ash Grove has supported all efforts to fully fund transportation infrastructure in Kansas. We have been actively engaged in recent sessions to stem the tide of shifting funds away from transportation projects or to find additional revenue sources.

Last year we were engaged in supporting the development of the Transportation Task Force. Once formed, we followed its meetings closely. HBs 2367 and 2368 are a result of the good work the task force completed.

We support HBs 2367 and 2368. We appreciate that these bills would add tools for local governments in Kansas to assist with their respective state matches for transportation projects. During the task force hearings, members heard extensive testimony about the needs local leaders have identified and prioritized for their communities. These bills could help their efforts, many of which were clearly economic development driven.

We look forward to discussing the task force's other recommendations. Thank you for the focus you are bringing to transportation funding. We are eager to support your efforts.