

**Testimony on SB 447 relating to Vessel Registrations
To
The Senate Committee on Natural Resources**

**By Christopher J. Tymeson
Chief Legal Counsel
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism**

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SB 447 seeks to raise the cap on vessel registration fees. **The Department supports the provisions contained in the bill.** The provisions of the bill would be effective July 1, 2012.

There are currently approximately 100,000 mechanically-propelled and sailing vessels registered with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism for use on public waters. The current registration fee is \$30 for a three-year period, which is the cap of the registration fee allowed by statute.

This amendment would raise the statutory limit on vessel registration fees. No fee increases are planned, but raising the cap will allow future increases if and when they become necessary. Registration fees were last raised in 2006 and it took 17 years before that to reach the statutory cap. Those fees are used to match federal funds that pay for vessel enforcement, safety equipment such as buoys, and boater education.

All Department fees are set by the KDWPT Commission after public hearings on the regulation.

The Department appreciates the support of the Committee in recommending favorably the bill.