

MINUTES OF THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Les Donovan at 8:30 a.m. on February 4, 2003 in Room 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Ed Pugh

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes
Marian F. Holeman, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Tom Whitaker, Exec. Dir., KS Motor Carriers Assn.
Jeff Davis, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Others attending: See attached list

Introduction of bill(s)

Mr. Whitaker appeared before the committee to request introduction of legislation to eliminate an exception to the International Registration Plan (Attachment 1). The International Registration Plan is an agreement between states allowing for apportioned registration of interstate motor carriers. Kansas is the only State requiring an exception in the registration procedure. Senator Gooch moved to introduce the bill. Senator Salmans seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kansas Motor Carriers Association

Today is the Kansas Motor Carriers Association's annual "Day at the Capitol." The Chair welcomed all the members present at this meeting; especially the five Captains of the Kansas Road Team. Senator Donovan will present a resolution in today's Senate Session to recognize some of their accomplishments.

Mr. Whitaker invited everyone to look at the "NO-ZONE" trailer parked in front of the south steps of the Capitol. This demonstrates blind spots around trucks and buses. If you wish to be safe, do not "hang out" in the "NO-ZONE." Their theme this year is Kansas Trucking on Duty 24/7/365.

Ten years ago the Association started the "Road Team" program and so far a total of 27 drivers have served on the Team. They discuss highway safety and trucking issues with the news media, driver education students, industry groups and community organizations. Team members present at the meeting included: Jack Larson, Roadway Express, Inc. in Kansas City. He has driven more than 2 million safe miles during his 21 year career. He is an over-the-road driver who operates twin and triple trailers on trips throughout the Midwest. He volunteers at the City Union Mission and Salvation Army and his church so he is active in his community. Next is Kent Durant who has compiled more than 400,000 safe miles in a 16-year career. He is a city pick-up and delivery driver in the Wichita area for Roadway Express, Inc. He

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also is a driver/trainer for Roadway and pastor of a church in Wichita. Vaughn Harris has compiled more than 2.5 million safe miles in his 24-year career. He drives for Wal-Mart throughout the 10-state Midwest area. He is a driver trainer for Wal-Mart and is on the driver screening committee. Leon Kuhn, Golden Plains Trucking, Incorporated has compiled more than 1.8 million safe miles during his 27-year career. Leon transports grain and livestock across the US. He was the 2000 Golden Plains Driver of the Year

The fifth member of the Road Team, Jeff Davis, presented a message on safety and sharing the roads with trucks. He has completed 2.5 million safe miles in his 23-year career. He drives from Wal-Mart's distribution center in Ottawa to their stores throughout the 10-state Midwest area. His grandfather and father were also truck drivers and his father was also a Road Team member. Mr. Davis was the 1999 Wal-Mart Driver of the Year as well as the 2000 Kansas Truck Driver of the Year. He discussed his background and some of the things that have made him a safer driver. He has won state and national driving championships and developed a strong interest in safety. Drivers from all over the world compete in these events and there are safety bonuses. In addition to driving, there are personal interviews, written tests, timed tests, tests regarding defects on trucks, etc. He provided interesting personal anecdotes regarding his driving experiences. He readily answered member's questions and provided safe driving tips. Topics ranged over a wide area; i.e., right hand turns, road rage, inattentive drivers, worst drivers, round about right of ways, not using turn signals, etc.

Mr Whitaker wrapped up the presentation with information regarding their activities for the remainder of the day. He also pointed out this industry employs some 91,000 people in the State of Kansas; about 35,000 of those are truck drivers. Another interesting fact is that last year the trucking industry paid three hundred seventy million dollars in federal and state taxes. That is 43% of all highway users' taxes and they represent only 12% of all highways users' miles traveled. He concluded by introducing the current president of the Kansas Motor Carriers' Association, Mr. Glenn Unrein from Hays, Kansas.

Approval of minutes

Senator Harrington moved to approve minutes of the January 28, 2003 meeting. Senator Schodorf seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2003.