



**Testimony on HB 2148
House General Government Budget Committee
February 13, 2015**

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. I'm Kent Cornish, President of the Kansas Association of Broadcasters, a trade association representing the nearly 275 radio and television stations in Kansas.

This is a citizenry bill – not one for broadcasters. But as the conduit to every community across Kansas, it's our job to provide to our listeners and viewers as much important information as we can. Some of you may be regularly featured on our radio stations through interviews or legislative programs.

Given the impact that decisions in the Statehouse have on every Kansan, they deserve to hear more about the process and information used to make laws they obey. This bill would not only help the broadcasters cover more legislative news, but other media as well. Stations don't have the resources to send people to the capitol on an ongoing basis and must rely on other sources to provide updates. And with that, the citizens lose out.

Frankly, I would prefer that bill contained video provisions and that it be in every committee room. But I understand the economics and this is still an excellent first step. I do appreciate that there will be a review at the end of 2 years to analyze its use and the feasibility of expanding to more committee rooms.

By streaming these committee hearings, newsrooms throughout the state will get first hand, the facts and full scope of the committee's discussion. But beyond the media, the voters who elected you have a better opportunity to listen to the information first hand.

Democracy doesn't work without an informed citizenry. You have a wonderful opportunity to keep the legislature open and transparent with passage of HB 2148.

Thank you for your time and I'd be pleased to answer questions at the appropriate time.

Kent Cornish
KAB
kent@kab.net
785-235-1307