

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

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Chair, Republican Caucus
Committee Assignments
Vice-Chair, Federal & State Affairs
Commerce, Labor & Economic Development
Judiciary
Rules and Journals

Travis Couture-Lovelady
Representative, 110th District

Chairman Proehl, Vice-Chairman Ryckman Sr, and members of the House Transportation committee,

I stand in support of HB 2033, a bill to create a 10 mph speed limit buffer when passing on a two lane highway. I believe it to be a matter of public safety as well as just good Kansas common sense. It makes sense to not linger in oncoming traffic. I believe it to be safer to expedite the passing process even when that means traveling in excess of the posted speed limit. I believe it to be a common practice currently and therefore have drafted HB 2033.

Other states have passed this buffer legislation including:

- Alaska
- Minnesota
- Montana
- Washington
- Wyoming – only state that includes restriction on vehicles pulling trailers

Some states have legislation being proposed this year including Texas.

HB 2033 was mirrored off of the Wyoming law and therefore the trailer restriction was included. I believe the committee should have a discussion when working the bill on whether or not Kansas should include that restriction. I believe it is probably an unnecessary restriction. If it is a safety issue for a car to not linger in oncoming traffic why should we deem it public policy to have trailers doing so?

I have attached the Washington statute as an example for an alternative. They did not set a buffer mph restriction, rather they just have broad language that directs drivers to exceed the speed limit as necessary to pass as quickly and as safely as possible with no restrictions on pulling a trailer included.

The other states have not seen any increase in accidents that could be attributed to the change in law.

KWCH FactFinder reached out to Minnesota State Troopers and they responded that “It was controversial when passed but as for general daily operations of state troopers, it did not change our workload or increase violations.” The KWCH story is also attached to my testimony.

Thank you for your time and I will stand for questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Travis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Travis