

## **Testimony in Support of House Bill 2149**

Presented by Bryan Frye

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Mr. Chairman, Mr. Vice Chairman, Mr. Ranking Minority, and all the members of the Senate Committee on Transportation, my name is Bryan Frye and I'm here today not as a Wichita City Councilmember but as a proud Wichitan. Nearly five years ago, I testified in support of the distinctive license plate bill that ultimately resulted in the Wichita flag plate.

The first Plates for Parks were issued in January 2019 and now there are thousands on the roads & highways in Kansas. With a \$50 royalty fee benefiting the Wichita Parks Foundation, the Wichita flag plate has raised over \$500,000 for park projects in the City of Wichita including the Chester I Lewis Reflection Square Park, the Swanson Park pedestrian bridge in northwest Wichita and the Edgemoor Park Pickleball Court conversion.

To date, nearly 6,000 Wichita flag plates have been issued. Thanks to both the House & Senate for the support of this program and the opportunity to take it to another level with HB 2149.

The personalization of distinctive license plates has the potential to grow the number of Wichita flag plates to even greater numbers. With successful approval of HB 2149, a person wouldn't have to choose between a distinctive plate or a personalized plate. They could have both. I personally know several people who would go this route. Myself included.

In the bigger picture, this is more than just increasing the number of Wichita flag plates. With 36 plate types currently offered by the state, there are thousands more who could decide to double down and drive their pride with this added personal touch. For instance, think of all the university affinity plates that could be uniquely tailored to the individual fan. I understand there are approximately 3,100 Wichita State distinctive plates and some 11,600 K-State distinctive plates.

Finally, please consider the impact of increased revenue for the Distinctive License Plate Fund. According to fiscal note testimony from Budget Director Proffitt, if 20,000 individuals chose to personalize their affinity plates, the state highway fund would grow by \$1.6 million.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this bill. Not only will it bring added attention and support for the agencies with distinctive plates, but it should also increase their royalty income as people seize the opportunity. Combining distinctive plates with personalization captures new revenue for multiple agencies without raising anyone's taxes and grows the state highway fund.