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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES
REGARDING SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1616
RADIO COMMUNICATION POLICIES**

February 4, 2004

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Deb Miller, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the SCR 1616 this morning.

Recently, KDOT gave a presentation on this issue to various interested legislative members, stakeholders, as well as to the Governor's Homeland Security Council. The presentation outlined a proposed change in KDOT's 800 MHz radio communication policy.

In an attempt to better serve the needs of Kansans, KDOT has proposed an "open" policy for its 800 MHz communication system. This proposal would continue to allow state and public safety entities the ability to use the 800 MHz communication infrastructure. The "open" change in the policy would allow other governmental agencies (both state and local), public safety entities, and potentially private organizations to also utilize the current KDOT 800 MHz resources and permit the use of non-800 MHz communication equipment.

It is anticipated that through this "open" approach, a fee-for-service will be considered to provide a funding mechanism which would allow 800 MHz system support, maintenance, and enhancement. Additionally, an enterprise fund will be utilized to provide the opportunity for governmental agencies (both state and local) and public safety entities to acquire 800 MHz radio equipment and participate in the system through a yearly lease with KDOT.

To accomplish the objectives of the changes for the utilization of the 800 MHz system and infrastructure, the Agency will be introducing the necessary enabling legislation. In addition, an unlimited line item will need to be included in the Agency's appropriation Senate Concurrent Resolution 1616

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for this fund to permit the receipt and expenditure of money from third party users of the system and from any federal or other funds which might also be obtained.

KDOT is truly appreciative of the support shown by this committee and other parties as we investigate how to best use our existing 800 MHz communication infrastructure to support public safety. As previously stated, our envisioned communication policy goes beyond the support of law enforcement, public health and safety, and emergency response. We also envision opening the infrastructure to other users' as capacity and system integrity will allow.

KDOT suggests the committee consider also sending copies of their resolution to the Kansas Congressional Delegation, as we anticipate pursuing their assistance in acquiring Federal Funding and/or Grants in the establishment and enhancement of a statewide interoperable radio communication system for the entire State of Kansas.