



FIRE DISTRICT #1

Riley County Fire District #1
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Testimony before House Federal and State Affairs Committee

HB2140 - Authorizing the governor to enter into the great plains interstate fire compact

Thursday, February 16th, 2017 Hearing

Chairman Barker and members of the committee:

My name is Doug Schmitt. I am the Assistant Fire Chief for Riley County, a past trustee of the Kansas State Firefighters Association and a current member of the Kansas All Hazards Incident Management Team. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my overwhelming support for House Bill 2140.

I had the great honor to be deployed to Barber County as part of the State Incident Management Team to assist with the Anderson Creek fire. My role on the Team was the Situation Unit Leader. Part of my responsibilities with the Team are to come in and analyze what happened and help forecast how the incident progressed. I interfaced with the Incident Management Team assisting Oklahoma and was shocked to learn that they had aircraft fighting the same fire in Oklahoma but couldn't send them to help us because we weren't part of this compact.

In the fire service we use a rule of thumb that a fire doubles every 30 seconds as one of our planning guidelines. This is why time is such a crucial factor in our decision processes. There are methods and mechanisms in place to get outside help on the firegrounds, but anything we can do to expedite the process saves the lives and property of the citizens we serve.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter and I stand ready to field any question you may have of me.

Doug Schmitt
Assistant Fire Chief
Riley County Fire District #1

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