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Testimony in Support of SB 161  
House Transportation Committee  
Topeka, Kansas

Thank you Chairman Proehl, Ranking Member Helgeson, and members of the committee for the opportunity to participate in today's hearing. My name is Ashleigh de la Torre and I lead transportation and sustainability public policy at Amazon. I am excited to join you today in support of Amazon Scout, our personal delivery device.

Amazon is proud of its growth in Kansas. In fact, we have invested over \$4 billion in our people and operations since 2010. We have over 8,000 full- and part-time employees (and growing) including employees at six fulfillment and sortation centers, two delivery stations, three Whole Foods Markets, and two wind farms.

That is why I am excited to be here today to support SB 161, which creates a Personal Delivery Device statute allowing devices like Amazon Scout to operate in Kansas.

Amazon launched Scout – a fully electric, autonomous delivery system in January 2019. Our device is the size of a cooler that you would bring to the beach, and operates at about the same speed as the average person walks.

Scout is 100% electric and is helping Amazon drive towards our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Safety is Amazon's top priority, and Scout has been designed for safety and accessibility. Scout is able to stop, or safely navigate around pedestrians, pets, and obstacles. Scout will provide visual and audio cues to alert people sharing the sidewalk of its presence. Scout will also instantly stop if something crosses in front of it.

Scout is currently operating in four communities; Snohomish County, WA, Irvine, CA, Franklin, TN, and Atlanta, GA. In our current operating areas, customers and neighbors (and local pets!) are at first curious about Scout, but, we've seen that the device quickly becomes a normal part of the neighborhood.

We are excited to find additional innovation-friendly neighborhoods partners. We are starting in a suburban area but hope to expand to additional areas in the future. Suburban sidewalks are some of the least utilized infrastructure in certain regions, and this is a safe, innovative, and environmentally friendly last-mile delivery option.

SB 161 would allow Amazon Scout, and other personal delivery device (PDD) operators to bring new technology and innovation to Kansas. We believe these changes can serve as a model for other states in promoting innovation in last-mile delivery.

Thank you for the opportunity to share more information about Scout and I ask for your support of SB 161.