



**KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission  
House Government Oversight Committee  
Proponent Testimony on HB 257  
October 24, 2023**

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and esteemed members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. My name is Chris Chiles and I serve as the Executive Director of KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission (KYOVA). I write to offer KYOVA's full support for HB 257.

KYOVA is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Tri-State area of Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky. As the MPO, KYOVA serves as a transportation planning agency and forum for regional transportation decisions. Its mission is to plan for an orderly, cost-effective, multi-modal transportation system for all citizens of the service area. With the support of local officials, the Commission plans for sound transportation improvements, which facilitate the movement of goods and people in a safe and efficient manner. KYOVA is responsible for the annual dissemination of millions of dollars in federal transportation funds to conduct transportation-related studies and implement transportation projects.

*DeAnna Holliday  
Chair*

*Christopher M. Chiles  
Executive Director*

My organization represents five (5) counties across three (3) states. KYOVA's Board is primarily comprised of local elected officials from the region, who also must serve their own jurisdictions and participate on numerous other boards as part of their elected office. Therefore, reasonable accommodations should be made to consider conflicts with other meetings, inclement weather, illness, and many other factors that may preclude a board member from attending a meeting in person. During the Covid-19 pandemic, KYOVA amended our Public Participation Plan to provide for virtual participation during public comment opportunities; this led to an increase in public participation and therefore better and stronger transportation studies.

Thank you again for your time and attention to KYOVA's support for HB 257. This bill will allow my agency and board to operate more efficiently and effectively, yet preserve the same level of accountability and transparency that are hallmarks of our commitment to the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris M. Chiles'.

Christopher M. Chiles, Executive Director

*KYOVA Interstate  
Planning Commission*

*400 Third Avenue  
Huntington, WV 25701  
Tel: (304) 523-7434  
Fax: (304) 529-7229*