



Feb. 13, 2024

To: House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

From: Emily Bradbury, Executive Director, Kansas Press Association
Allison Mazzei, Kansas Association of Broadcasters

Re: Opponent Testimony for HB2591

Rep. Delperdang and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Press Association and Kansas Association of Broadcasters opposition of HB2591. Legislators should reject the proposed exemption to open meetings requirements for the KCC unless the bill's proponents can accomplish the very tall task of articulating a substantial government interest that outweighs the public's [right to be informed under KOMA](#). KPA and KAB struggle to identify what that interest could be. Even rural water districts and other public bodies across the state with few members are and have been subject to KOMA since its inception. As such, KCC cannot rely on its small size to justify changing the law in a way that would unreasonably infringe on the public's right to know. Thus, KCC has a high hurdle to clear to explain why it should be treated differently from similarly-sized public bodies. As that hurdle very likely cannot be cleared, the bill should not advance.

Our organizations respectfully request that the committee not advance HB2591.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily S. Bradbury".

Emily Bradbury
KPA Executive Director
embradbury@kspress.com
785-271-5304

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Allison Mazzei".

Allison Mazzei
KAB President
allison@kab.net
785-235-1307