

Topeka State Capitol  
Committee on Federal and State Affairs  
201 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Topeka, KS 66603

Reference: SB 474 – Proponent – In person testimony

Greetings Mr. Chairman and Committee,

I am grateful for the opportunity to be here today to give my testimony on SB 474. I have strong beliefs that reducing government to the most local level possible is best for our state and communities.

I do want to mention to the committee that I really appreciate the state legislature giving citizens the ability to submit ordinances by petition! Thank you!

A petition that is gathered and signed by a large percentage of registered voters in the community is a very powerful document that needs to be respected and held in very high esteem. It takes a monumental effort by the local community to obtain enough registered voters' signatures to bring an ordinance to the municipality for consideration.

The changes that are being proposed to current law KSA 12-3013 are long overdue. This bill goes back many years.

Over the course of those many years city attorneys and their staff have, in my opinion, subverted the spirit of the law. As you know a legislative law is a new law and an administrative law is an existing law.

City attorneys and judges have struck down many petitions just by stating that they are administrative and most of those rulings could be argued, with merit, that they are a new law, not administrative.

For example, cities in Kansas have used eminent domain to condemn properties for commercial development that are zoned residential. These are real people that live in these neighborhoods, these are their homes.

Local citizens that organized successful petitions to challenge eminent domain or other current ordinances have failed because they have been ruled administrative. This does not allow registered voters a voice.

Again, thank you for letting the citizens of Kansas have a process to petition or local government!

Mr. Chairman, I encourage the committee to approve these changes in SB 474. Our cities will be better for it.

Sincerely,



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