

Hon. Steve Huebert
Chair
House Standing Committee on Local Government
Address
City, State, Zip

February 14, 2012

VIA FAX

Dear Hon. Huebert:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Emporia. The City has provided all solid waste activities, including collection, transportation and disposal, for the residents of Emporia for decades. The City also contracts with Lyon and Chase Counties to provide all disposal services for the residents of those counties. The City has successfully operated its own landfill, and now contracts with Hamm's to transport and dispose of 2 Counties' solid waste in an environmentally safe manner. The City continues is landfill post-closure mandated activities to ensure there is no environmental damage to surrounding property owners. A total of 32 employees professionally and safely provide services to over 8,500 residential and commercial accounts. The total population served by City crews is almost 25,000 and the total population in Lyon and Chase Counties that are served by the City's transfer station is over 36,000.

The City bills the users of the collection and disposal of solid waste. Services are provided in a cost effective manner. The City can and does ensure high quality of service because it supervises the employees providing the service. Therefore, I am urging the Committee to vote against HB 2639, which if approved would weigh providing solid waste services heavily in favor of private waste companies. It creates an unlevel playing field in which the private companies can file a FOIA request to municipalities' budgets, then bid slightly below those budgets without revealing their costs and revenues. It would force municipalities to lay off many employees and reduce a source of revenue during a time of limited government revenue. Lastly, it would reduce the opportunity for residents in municipalities across Kansas from having a direct say in the type, cost and quality of service through the local elected officials.

I appreciate your consideration.

Cordially,

CITY OF EMPORIA

Matt Zimmerman
City Manager

Cc: House Local Government Committee
Sen. Jeff Longbine
Rep. Don Hill
Rep. Peggy Mast

