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**Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government
Statement Opposing SB 109
Monday, February 11, 2013
On behalf of
City of Overland Park**

Chairman Pyle, and members of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government. This statement is presented on behalf of the City of Overland Park, Kansas concerning proposed SB 109 dealing with public funds and lobbying. The City of Overland Park opposes this bill.

SB 109 is incredibly over reaching and completely eliminates the ability of municipalities, professional and trade organizations, public educational institutions, local chambers of commerce, and any other organization or representative thereof which receives public funding through contributions or memberships to participate in the creation, amendment, or elimination of State legislation.

The proposed legislation goes a step further by criminalizing simple communication between city administrators and legislators on public policy matters. Dialogue and discourse in the legislative process has been a cornerstone of the democratic process in America since its inception. It is a fundamental issue in our City's legislative agenda to protect the right of our community to advocate on its behalf and to participate in the State legislative process. SB 109 as written clearly denies the City the right to do so.

Should you have any questions or need additional information please contact Mayor Carl Gerlach or City Manager, Bill Ebel.