



**CITY OF HUMBOLDT**  
**OFFICE OF CITY ADMINISTRATION**

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March 12, 2013

To: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

From: Larry Tucker, City Administrator  
Humboldt KS

Re: Testimony on House Bill 2118

I am writing this letter of testimony in support of House Bill No. 2118. This amendment to the state historic preservation law is needed to eliminate the concern over decisions regarding improvements to privately owned structures within the 500 foot requirements of historic structures.

The City of Humboldt would like to create a historic district and place a number of structures on the national and state historic register. However, current laws restrict its ability to create such a district due to the outside oversight of building improvements which may or may not have any influence on the historic designations determined by the local citizens of the community.

In addition, this law is hurting rural communities such as Humboldt from raising outside tax credit funding for improvements to its historic structures. Because the City has no final say over the improvements made to others near its historic areas, a historic district which is required for outside funding cannot happen.

In addition, Kansas is the only state in America that has the 500 foot rule on private properties.

Please support this legislative change and exempt private property improvements in towns that want to establish historic districts. Local citizens know the history and preservation of its local communities better than outsiders in Topeka. The future of rural communities depends on having the ability to determine its destiny.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Tucker  
City Administrator  
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