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To: House Local Government Committee  
Date: February 16, 2016  
Subject: Support of **HB 2558**

Chairman Huebert and members of the House Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today in support of **HB 2558**. I am giving my support for this legislation. I have been a candidate myself and have walked door to door canvassing for numerous campaigns other than my own. A Do Not Solicit sign should not pertain to political speech, and in my experience, many who have Do Not Solicit signs are more than happy to listen to candidates campaigning for elected office. With elections occurring in the fall, campaigns are not taking place year round. Therefore the contact voters could have with campaigns has a far more limited potential than the exposure voters have to solicitors. Many voters I've spoken with have claimed they rarely are contacted by candidates for office, or other political canvassers.

The core issue is that we should not allow suppression of the most common and effective method for local campaigns to reach voters. Government is local, and many of the offices voters have to choose from, that could affect their lives the most, do not have the resources to launch mass media campaigns. Door-to-door is often the only viable method to reach the voters for such campaigns. In many cases it is the only way for voters to learn about the candidates they have the ability to choose from. The 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution states: The powers not delegated to the United States (Federal Government) by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people. While some may attempt to characterize **HB 2558** as yet another attack on local control, it is appropriate for the state of Kansas to uphold citizens' most basic rights of freedom of speech, including political speech. While we respect the authority of municipalities to govern according to the needs of their communities, there are certain rights which must be upheld by the state, and upon being infringed by a municipality, must not be tolerated. Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments on this very important issue.