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Representative Kent Thompson, Chair

Subject: Written testimony in OPPOSITION to House Bill No. 2238, AN ACT establishing the Sedgwick county urban area nuisance abatement act.

Dear Mr. Chairman and members of the House Committee on Local Government.

I believe there is a need for public input from the rural residents of Sedgwick County before this bill proceeds down the path to becoming law. Population wise the City of Wichita represents about 75% of the county population. However, Wichita, land wise, represents less than 20% of the total land area of the county. Sedgwick County, therefore, is not just an urban county we are heavily rural agricultural and routinely rank as one of the top wheat producing counties in Kansas!

I find the broad undefined definition of what is a nuisance in the bill as troubling; particularly with the delegation of authority provided in the bill that leaves these types of decisions to non-elected governmental bureaucrats. .

I routinely drive the county roads of rural Sedgwick County. I see older quaint rundown barns, outbuildings, and non-operative rusting farm equipment as well as the weed-patches that are a part of the natural agricultural terrain. These types of scenes are prominent in art books about Kansas; however, they likely would not meet the subjective eye appeal of urban inspectors who view these scenes as trash. It wouldn't surprise me if the smell of a productive hog or cattle operation might be offensive enough to a bureaucratic nose to classify it as a nuisance.

The private property rights of our rural Sedgwick County farmers are too important for you to allow House Bill No. 2238 to become law.

Sincerely,

John R. Todd
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