

Legislature of the state of Kansas
Committee on Ethics, Election and Local Government
February 6th, 2019

Dear Senators,

The legislation addressing senate bill No. 59 to create the Eudora community library district act is of importance to me and because it will allow our local library to continue to provide services to the town of Eudora, its surrounding communities and rural populations. Furthermore, it can expand its services by allowing residents to vote on bonds to build a new larger more modern facility.

The Eudora township library's classification was not updated when the city of Eudora became a city of the second class in 2010. This has caused considerable distress for our city and township leaders since they became aware of this oversight. It is everyone's greatest hope that the library (the only public library in our area) be able to continue to function in the same manner it has for the past 50 years.

Whatever you call it, the Eudora township library, Eudora library district library or something else, it will simply be THE LIBRARY to those of us who live in and around Eudora. Our library does not discriminate based on where its patrons live. If a child comes in after school to hang out until his/her parents get home from work, the librarian doesn't ask whether he/she lives in the township or city, the librarian simply asks if they need any help or how they are that day.

This discovery of this township/library district complication has come at a very inopportune time as the library is in desperate need of expansion and hopes to pass some bonds in the relatively near future. The library building itself is not large enough for many of the functions and activities it would like to host. The librarians try to limit the size of the book /audio book/movies collections to maintain an open area and therefore can't offer the variety of books we could otherwise have. Even with limiting the size of the collection, the children's room is so small we have to turn away children during book readings. A newer program, Feeding Eudora, helps facilitate the distribution of meals to children during the summer months who might not typically have one. These are held outside and have to be canceled if the weather turns bad or it is dangerously hot out.

In addition to being too small the current building is severely outdated. As we all know, technology has advanced very quickly over the last 20 years and the electrical, internet needs can't be met in the current facility without significant investment which isn't practical given the space limitations the building has.

The Eudora library is a significant part of our community and it is very important to many of our residents from the youngest to the oldest. Please help pass this bill so the Eudora Township Library/Eudora library district library may continue to provide these services to our community.

Sincerely,



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