

Committee on Ethics, Elections and Local Government

February 12th, 2019

Re: SB59 - Eudora community library district act

Chairman, Members of the Committee,

I write to you in support of SB59, the Eudora community library district act. The Eudora Library is part of the foundation of our small town, and our town is growing. Our library is a critical resource when looking at the infrastructure of Eudora, and it has not only been unable to grow to meet the needs of the community, but is literally crumbling. The Eudora Library is 50 years old, and while the staff there have done an amazing job of making due with what they have, it is stretched well beyond the limit.

Eudora residents have a low rate of internet access when compared to other communities in northeast Kansas. This creates challenges for students trying to complete homework, individuals seeking employment, or just trying to stay connected with what is happening in the world around you. For many Eudora residents, the Eudora Library is their only reliable avenue to access internet based resources. Eudora also has a relatively high poverty rate, and many families struggle with food insecurity, especially during the summer, when children do not receive meals at school. This is another area where the Eudora Library has stepped up, well beyond what anyone thought was possible, to help the community. Feeding Eudora, a program hosted by the Eudora Library, served over 4,000 free lunches to members of the community during the summer of 2018 alone, and expects to provide even more in the future.

SB59 is the right bill, at the right time, with the right provisions to help our community library help our community continue to grow. I particularly support that it is a collaborative effort while giving the library the flexibility to function, with the establishment of the district by a joint resolution of the City Commission and the Township Board, the appointment of the Board of Directors, and the library district being autonomous.

As a parent, homeowner and concerned community member, my hope is that you will support our community by supporting SB59. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Becky Plate

Eudora, Kansas