

To: House Federal and State Affairs Committee
From: Eric B. Smith, Deputy General Counsel
Date: April 6, 2017
RE: Neutral Testimony on SB 86

I want to thank Chairman Barker and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities to provide testimony on SB 86.

The League originally opposed this bill due to a misunderstanding of the language. We do not oppose the bill as it was passed out of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee.

The League offers yearly Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) trainings and educates city officials and staff that fees charged for open records requests should be set at an amount for the city to recoup the costs incurred to comply with the request; cities should not make money from an open records requests or charge high fees to deter requests. It has been our experience that cities respect and obey this law. The portions of SB 86 concerning costs should not change the way most League member cities respond to a KORA request.