

March 6, 2023

Senator Carolyn McGinn
Chairwoman, Senate Local Government
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street, Room 234-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

**Neutral Testimony by Joe Connor, Assistant County Manager, Johnson County, to
the Senate Local Government Committee in re: House Bill 2323**

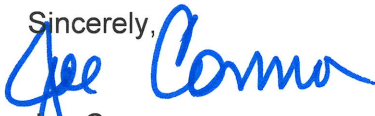
Chairwoman McGinn and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing Johnson County the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2323, providing for the detachment and transfer of fire district property annexed by a city. The proposed change by the City of Olathe would make the detachment of certain properties from fire districts in Johnson County effective automatically one year after the date of annexation. Currently, property that is annexed by a city is not removed from the fire district until an agreement is reached between the city and the fire district.

After the proposed bill was introduced, the County worked with the City of Olathe to draft the proposed amendment to add additional clarifying language outlining the notification process and effective date of the property transfer, all to ensure the accuracy of the tax roll compiled and administered by the County Clerk. Further language was added to clarify the ownership of land and other property by the fire district is not transferred as part of the annexation and detachment process.

The proposed changes will ensure an orderly process that considers the timing of annexations as it relates to producing an accurate tax roll and the annual budget process. Johnson County supports the proposed amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Connor".

Joe Connor
Assistant County Manager
Johnson County, Kansas

cc: Penny Postoak Ferguson, Johnson County Manager