STATE OF KANSAS
SENATE CHAMBER

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7368
DOUG.SHANE@SENATE.KS.GOV

6014 W. 295TH STREET
LOUISBURG, KANSAS 66053
(913) 963-6640

DOUG SHANE
37TH DISTRICT

SB 124

Imposing restrictions on unilateral annexations

Proponent – Oral In-Person

March 18th, 2025

Madam Chair Bowers and Esteemed Committee Members,

I submit proponent testimony for SB 124, a bill for which I am the sponsor. I recognize that today is an informational hearing, and that action will not be taken on this bill until next session. My intent today is to highlight the importance of this bill before you.

Senate District 37 is one the fastest growing senate districts in Kansas and includes a robust industrial and logistics economy. The communities of Gardner and Edgerton are growing at 2.5% every year, with much of the land in Johnson Couty available for annexation and expansion being in that region. Without a doubt, growth and opportunity are present in the district. Growth comes with many blessings, but it also comes with many challenges.

One such challenge is the balance of municipal growth with the rights of rural citizens. In recent years, aggressive and questionable annexation practices have plagued the district. These battles have caused anger, resentment, and a feud between the rural property owners and the municipalities.

SB 124 seeks to address some of the key factors with annexation that cause concern for the property rights of individuals, as well as some of the questionable tactics used by municipalities to annex land. For instance, several municipalities in Kansas have used the ambiguous definition of “narrow corridor” to connect arguably non-contiguous pieces

STATE OF KANSAS
SENATE CHAMBER

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7368
DOUG.SHANE@SENATE.KS.GOV

6014 W. 295TH STREET
LOUISBURG, KANSAS 66053
(913) 963-6640

DOUG SHANE
37TH DISTRICT

of land. This bill would eliminate the practice and ensure cities must utilize reasonable and ethical means to annex land into the city.

My expert, Mrs. Jennifer Williams, will be able to share important history, examples, and legal battles that highlight the need for SB 124 in Kansas. Thank you for taking the committee's time to hear this bill.

Regards,

Doug Shane

Kansas Senator, District 37