TESTIMONY

SENATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

SB 124

On behalf of *Southwest Kansas Coalition*

February 3, 2026

OPPONENT

Chairwoman Bowers and members of the Senate Local Government, Transparency and Ethics Committee, on behalf of Southwest Kansas Coalition, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on SB 124. The Southwest Kansas Coalition is a collection of communities that include The Cities of Dodge City, Garden City and Liberal with associate membership from the City of Hays.

The current statutory framework for annexation was amended in 2011 to balance the interests of cities and those areas to be annexed. Further amendments would shift this balance in a way that would impede orderly growth.

SB 124 appears to prevent all unilateral annexation of unplatted agricultural land. There are already limitations provided in statute. This authority helps ensure efficient delivery service. Without it, there can be fragmented city boundaries which cause difficulties for maintenance efforts and emergency response. While not every community exercises the ability to unilaterally annex property, it is an important tool to help ensure that those properties that rely on, or benefit from, municipal services are paying for those services and that burden does not fall onto existing residents and businesses within the city limits.

Additionally, SB 124 eliminates the ability to annex narrow corridors of land to access non-contiguous tracts. This is a vital planning tool that enables logical and efficient urban development and is done with consideration to infrastructure and service delivery impacts.

Southwest Kansas Coalition appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 124. We believe that the current statutes provide adequate balance between the needs of growing communities and property owners. As a results, we urge the Committee to oppose SB 124.

Thank you for your consideration.

CITY OF Dodge City KANSAS

GARDEN CITY™ KANSAS

CITY OF LIBERAL

Southwest Kansas Coalition is a membership organization that includes the Cities of Dodge City, Garden City and Liberal with associate membership from City of Hays that actively advocates for issues impacting the region.