Feb 1, 2026

Opponent Testimony for SB 124

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 124. This bill imposes unnecessary restrictions on municipal annexation, limits cities' abilities to manage growth, to provide essential services, and maintain financial stability.

Amendments in SB 124 restrict the ability of cities to grow in orderly and thoughtful fashion, which would hamper and possibly threaten economic growth for that community, and for the state. Cities are the economic engines for the State of Kansas, where the greatest productivity and property values per acre are located.

This legislation could increase costs for taxpayers by resulting in less well planned and efficient communities. It could also make Kansas less competitive for retaining and attracting businesses and talent.

It would upend regulations that have been in place for many years, which could create additional confusion.

Cities rely on current statutory authority in the areas of extraterritorial zoning and annexation to guide development and ensure infrastructure is expanded in a logical, sustainable manner.

SB 124 nullifies KSA 12-520(a)(5) and (6), which allow cities to annex properties under 21 acres to correct irregular boundaries. This authority is critical for ensuring efficient service delivery, particularly for emergency response. Absent this authority, irregular and disjointed city boundaries will make it more difficult to provide timely police, fire, and medical services.

The combined effect of these provisions is to severely limit a city's ability to expand in a way that sustains infrastructure, services, and economic vitality. Cities must grow to support roads, water, sewer, fire, and police services—not just for new development but for the entire community.

For these reasons, the City of Wichita strongly urges the committee to oppose SB 124.

Thank you for your time and consideration.