Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 124

I just learned of the hearing tomorrow, so please forgive the late testimony.

Please reference my proponent testimony both written and in-person from March 2025.

In summary, rural residents are being harmed by the current wording of KSA 12-520 – specifically KSA 12-520(g) which allows cities to circumvent the KSA 12-520c island annexation requirements with no due process to surrounding citizens.

By not allowing neighboring cities, counties, or neighboring citizens to have standing under KSA 12-538, it also leaves the enforcement of KSA 12-520(g) to the two people who potentially violated the statute, or taxpayers having to pay the defense via the Attorney General.

By allowing the current wording of KSA 12-520(g), it sets the stage for a KSA 12-520c island annexation process to be circumvented with a “peninsula” connector, (narrow corridor), that removes the public hearing and allows the narrow corridor to become a new annexation point - unlike island annexations which do not allow contiguous annexations from the island.

County residents have property rights too, and they should be protected from any action that takes away their due process and destroys their property rights, property values, and communities from incompatible development by neighboring cities where the county residents cannot vote for the elected officials making decisions over them and they have no way to participate in the representative process of the city affecting them.

America was founded upon representation, property rights, and due process. Therefore, I respectfully request your consideration of the original SB124 and amendments that have been proposed.

Jennifer Williams