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HB 2447 - Opponent

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TO: House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee



Chairman Tarwater and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide remarks on HB 2447, which would prohibit Kansas municipalities from banning the sale of any products or services that is otherwise permitted by state law.

We oppose HB 2447 because it eliminates the ability for municipalities determine answers to environmental challenges facing their communities.

As a nonpartisan, nonprofit grassroots environmental group with approximately 5000 members in Kansas, the Sierra Club believes that communities should be empowered to enact environmental solutions for the benefit of their people and ecosystems. Because communities in Kansas vary so widely in terms of demographics, ecosystems and natural resources, and industries, we feel it is important for local communities to have autonomy to democratically tackle the problems uniquely affecting their people, especially when it positively impacts ecosystems.

Communities might be differently impacted by various technologies or services implicating water, pesticides, invasive species, single-use plastics, hazardous chemicals, animals, pollution, and more. What works well for one municipality might not be appropriate for another. This understanding is a major reason why we have local government.

HB 2447 clearly disrespects the spirit of Home Rule and the powers prescribed to cities in the Kansas Constitution.

Article 12, Section 5(b) stipulates that *"Cities are hereby empowered to determine their local affairs and government..."* and Section 5(d) reiterates that *"Powers and authority granted cities pursuant to this section shall be liberally construed for the purpose of giving to cities the largest measure of self - government."*

Communities should be allowed to voluntarily decide what's right for themselves rather than by a State mandate from those that don't live there.

The Sierra Club supports the right to democracy; we believe corporate influence over governments must be constrained to stop the erosion of the peoples' right to govern themselves and governments' ability to establish justice and promote the general welfare. It's clear that the corporate influences behind this legislation do not respect the Home Rule values adopted by the Kansas Legislature sixty years ago.

Thank you for including these thoughts into your evaluation and please oppose HB 2447.

Zack Pistora | Legislative Director and State Lobbyist, Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization dedicated to enjoying, exploring, and protecting our great outdoors. The Kansas Chapter represents our state's strongest grassroots voice on environmental matters for nearly fifty years.