

Rural Leavenworth, Inc.
P. O. Box 60
Basehor, KS 66007



February 8, 2023

Written Testimony to KS House Local Government Committee
Honorable Chairman, Representative Bergquist
Debra Heideman, Committee Assistant
785-296-7681, Room 149-S, State Capitol Building

Proponent Testimony House Bill 2150
Hearing: Wed., February 8, 2023, 9:00 am, Room 281-N
Sherri Grogan, President
Rural Leavenworth, Inc.

Dear Honorable Chairman Bergquist and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2150. Rural Leavenworth, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to keep Leavenworth County citizens informed, encourage civic engagement and be an advocate for rural residents. RLI was established in 2019 based on concerns with urban growth, land use, regulation changes, rezoning and special use permits.

In 2018, local government entities pursued an interlocal agreement in the Basehor urban growth area. Citizens in the 3-mile area expressed concern and Basehor decided not to pursue the agreement. County residents, who are unable to vote for city officials, did not want city officials to make decisions regarding their property or be required to follow city regulations.

In December 2022, Basehor approved a new Comprehensive Plan including areas outside city limits. The Basehor land use map is not aligned with Leavenworth County's land use map. There are differences in zoning category definitions as well as how categories are applied. For example, residential versus business; and residential density. The County currently has responsibility for planning in the 3-mile radius. It is unknown how the County and City will reconcile the differences; however, Basehor added an action item to their comprehensive plan based on the written comments RLI submitted prior to their public hearing.

RLI's concern is with the lack of coordination in developing and maintaining the comprehensive plans and the confusion that arises from inconsistent land use maps. The inconsistencies cause friction between local entities and impact development. Concerns of citizens living outside city limits are often not in line with, if not at odds with, those who live within a defined city boundary. The issue of zoning was mentioned previously but those engaged in small or micro agricultural pursuits could easily find themselves at odds with groups such as Homeowner's Association (HOAs) and realtors that have a significant voice in urban planning.

RLI supports HB2150 because it eliminates the opportunity for blurred lines of responsibility between city and county government, minimizes power struggles, and citizen confusion as to who is responsible for planning. Further, there is still a process as outlined in KSA 12-670 if a city wants to adopt regulations in the 3-mile area outside city limits; it calls for a joint committee comprised of both city and county planning commissioners. A joint committee is believed to be a more collaborative way to address planning rather than a city taking on the responsibility on its own.

Rural Leavenworth, Inc. encourages you to support HB2150. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherri Grogan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Sherri Grogan
President
Rural Leavenworth, Inc.
info@ruraleavenworth.org