



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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February 9, 2024

Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 373

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 373. We are opposed to Senate Bill 373 because our elected board of county commissioners considers seriously when and where they value expending of public funds. Our budget process is lengthy, time consuming, and receives a full evaluation at the department, agency, and commission levels to end up in our final budget. When the budget is presented to the commission, our elected leadership conducts all the required hearings, assessments, and public hearings. After careful consideration, the commission votes in a public meeting to amend or approve the final budget.

Our commission has chosen to participate in a wide variety of professional associations that facilitate, education, and allow our employees to better serve the citizens of Douglas County. We belong to the Kansas Association of Counties, the Registrar of Deeds Association, the Public Health Association, and many others. We also utilize the services of a government relations company. All these services are included in, identifiable, and explicitly allowed by state law.

We oppose Senate Bill 373 because it will reduce our abilities to serve our residents and taxpayers. For our commission, these professional services help make our government and our community function better.

Sincerely,

Karen Willey, Chair
Douglas County Commissioner