

Tuesday, February 6, 2024

Chair McQuinn, Vice Chair Bowers, Ranking Minority Member
Francisco and Members of the Committee

RE: Senate Bill SB 346, Proponent Testimony Only

I support Senate Bill 346. The residents of Prairie Village cannot allow our Mayor and City Council to continue to try and rule the landowners of this wonderful City. They have tried to rezone our neighborhood (without even a meeting or vote) in order to build multi family dwellings in R-1 and R-2 zones. When we tried to be heard and democratically put it up to vote, they sued us **with our own tax money**. Our City is landlocked, our schools are mostly filled to capacity. Instead of spending our money to satisfy their visions on attainable (subsidized) housing, they should spend it on schools, streets, and the infrastructures in our existing neighborhoods.

Thank you,
Susan Archer
Senate District 7

Teri Anderson

20809 W 92nd Street, Lenexa, KS 66220

Sb 346

Proponent

Chairwoman and Committee Members,

I am a Proponent on sb 346.

The zoning should be with the property owner requesting any change. Individuals' rights need to be protected.

Please pass sb 346 favorably out of committee .

Thank you,

Teri Anderson

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
SB 346
Proponent Testimony ONLY

Dear Honorable Senators:

We are 40-year residents of Prairie Village, Kansas, and are writing to offer our strongest support for the passage of SB 346. As in other cities in Johnson County, we find ourselves the target of a misguided city council, who believe the destruction of single-family zoning and owners' property rights will solve the affordable housing crisis. It won't.

Single family zoning provides the backbone for every community. It makes possible the growth of retail, office, and industrial development. Single family zoning stimulates the associated social and economic benefits, that can only succeed when citizens have confidence in the investment made in their homes and their rights to protect their investment. Cities that attempt to violate property rights and rewrite existing single family zoning laws undermine that trust, with little benefit to affordable housing.

Opportunities abound in growing communities with abundant, undeveloped land. Here, thoughtfully planned projects created specifically to address affordable housing needs are a realistic solution. There are other solutions. However, the retroactive sabotage of decades old single-family zoned neighborhoods is not the answer.

Without a bill that supports the basic rights of single- family homeowners, Kansans will be forced to continue defending themselves against city councils who put politics over fundamental principles.

Respectfully,

Todd and Jan Bleakley
Senate District 7

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
SB 346
Proponent Testimony Only

Colleen Duggan
Senate District: 7

Dear Senator Carolyn McGinn and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Local Government.

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 346 in order to preserve our right to control our zoning.

Sincerely,

Colleen Duggan
7216 Cherokee Dr.
Prairie Village, KS 66208

2.2.24

Senate Committee on local government
Debbie Detmer
10816 W 64 Terrace
Shawnee, KS 66203
913.265.0047

SB 346
Proponent
WebEx

Chairwomen and Committee Members,

I am a Proponent on Sb 346.

The zoning of property should be with the property owner requesting any change. Individual rights need to be protected. The city and county should not propose any amendments to personal property in relationship to zoning. They would have final say on any property owners request.

Thank you
Debbie Detmer

Ladies & Gentlemen; In regards to Senate Bill 346 Hearing

On : Tuesday, February 6, 2024, 9:30 AM

We, Geoffrey & Margaret Alston, fully support the no rezoning bill, and urge you to vote accordingly. This is our testimony in support of SB 346

Geoff & Margaret Alston

7853 Howe Circle, Prairie Village, KS 66208

Senate district 7

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
SB 346
Proponent Testimony
Request to appear in person

Dennis DuPont
Kansas Senate District 7

Members of Senate Committee on Local Government:

This testimony is in support of SB 346.

Local government overreach is a very real concern when it comes to rezoning of land. Citizens of a community that are kept in the dark regarding the process can find themselves in a precarious position. Discovery of facts that are difficult for the layperson to discern, then gathering a collective voice in order to take a position on the issue is challenging enough. Add to this the prospects of state statutes being ignored or misrepresented by local government as to aid its development deals, along with a governing body that threatens to sue any of the citizenry that stands in opposition to said development deals leaves us with an electorate that is fighting with both arms tied behind its back.

This is the case with the recent rezoning of a park in Westwood, Kansas. The ONLY park in Westwood. To respect the committee's time, I will share here only highlights, but welcome the opportunity to discuss the matter in more detail.

The Westwood City Council is currently ignoring a Kansas Statute regarding parkland (K.S.A. 12-1301), where the municipality has declared that the city's park of 50 years – created and dedicated as a park ~~and~~ then re-dedicated in 2002 to a past City Mayor – is actually not a park. The Council rezoned this park for commercial purposes. A protest petition drive ensued and was submitted to the City. After the signatures were validated by the Johnson County Election Office, the City called a special meeting to declare the petition invalid.

Along the way to the park rezoning, the City used intimidation tactics and threats of legal action against citizens in an attempt to limit First Amendment rights. The city of Westwood is not the only community in Kansas where this abuse of the electorate can be seen, but it is the one I know quite well and the one that has brought this generally quiet citizen out of his house, ready to speak up against this growing concern.

Passage of this statute would be a start to counter officials, unelected planning commissioners and municipalities from imposing rezoning changes unjustly. We ask that you support SB 346.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chair McGinn, Vice Chair Bowers, Ranking Minority member Francisco, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to say that I **fully support SB 346**, restricting who can propose rezoning amendments to the City and County zoning regulations.

Thank you for taking time to address an issue that has been a hot topic in Prairie Village for the last several years. Our Mayor and several current (and now former) City Council members have fought to rezone areas of our city. They have taken recommendations of the UCS out of context and attempted to push these ideas through without the support of the citizens of Prairie Village. A grass roots group of residents started asking for signatures, providing us with the opportunity to vote on any changes. Over 3700 registered voters came out to events all over the city to put their names on the initiative. The reaction from the city council and Mayor was disappointing as they started legal proceedings against the very voters they took a vow to represent.

Residents of Prairie Village, like many communities all over the state, are proud of where we live. Our beautiful city will change over time, but the citizens should have the ability to have a say in how they change.

Kevin Donnelly

Prairie Village, KS

Tuesday, February 6, 2024
SB 346
Proponent Testimony
Request to appear in person.

Timothy Swanson
Senate District: 7

Chair McGinn, Vice Chair Bowers, Ranking
Minority member Francisco, and members of the
Committee,

I'm writing this testimony in support of SB 346.

Lori Sharp is my councilwoman in Ward 3 in
Prairie Village, Kansas, and I wholeheartedly
agree with her testimony. It is accurate and
truthful! I have been to all the council meetings
except for maybe 3 in the last two years and can
tell you that most single-family home property
owners in Prairie Village do not support the re-
zoning changes. I also might add that this is

a non-partisan issue. As you probably know, the conversation about zoning is being heard in many cities throughout the United States and is being met with great resistance.

I have been to the zoning committee meetings, and the committee members are at a loss for what the city council members want them to do regarding zoning changes. They have discussed all the zoning regulations in detail, and the council members still have no suggestions for updating or changing the zoning rules. In my opinion, it appears to be just filling a square on the council's part and has nothing to do with updating or fixing zoning regulations. Is this whole issue political? You be the judge.

When it comes to property rights and zoning, the people directly affected should be the ones to have a vote and a voice. To this point, we have not been heard. I respectfully request you to support SB 346.

Thank you,

Timothy Swanson

Senate Committee on Local Government
February 4, 2024

Sarah Fagan
6414 McCoy Street, Shawnee, KS 66226
RE: Proponent Written Testimony for SB 346

Madam Chairwoman and Committee Members,

As a proponent of SB 346, I believe rezoning amendments should be initiated by individual property owners. Individual rights should be protected. Rezoning should be considered with the property owner requesting any change.

Please help favorably pass SB 346 out of committee.

Thank you,
Sarah Fagan
Senate District #10