

House Local Government Committee January 29, 2025 HB 2025

Kansas Association of Counties Neutral Testimony

Chairman Bergquist and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer neutral testimony on HB 2025, which would eliminate the three-mile extraterritorial planning and zoning authority for cities.

Extraterritorial zoning authority is a complex issue. There are some areas of the state where cities and counties have been able to successfully work together on a comprehensive development plan that has aided the growth of the entire community. In others, a lack of continuity and communication has hindered growth and development.

This issue is further complicated by the fact that the impact of this in un-zoned counties would be different than the impact in zoned counties. This could lead to unintended consequences.

The Kansas Association of Counties is neutral on this legislation. We would instead request an interim committee to more thoroughly study this issue. KAC and other entities impacted by this want to find the right solution. We may determine after further study that HB 2025 or similar legislation is the right solution, but we do not know that now. We also need time during an interim study to ensure that any changes do not create unintended consequences that hamper growth and development in communities or create problems for current residents whose property benefits from the current law.

For these reasons, KAC would ask that the committee not advance HB 2025 and instead request an interim committee to study this issue where all stakeholders can present relevant information to find the best solution. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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