



DICKINSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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dkcoks.org

Senator Mike Fagg
Chair, Senate Committee on Utilities
State Capitol
300 SW 10th Ave, Room [Room Number]
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator Fagg and Esteemed Members of the Senate Committee on Utilities,

Dickinson County wishes to express our concerns regarding the proposed changes to Senate Bill 57, which would require counties to reimburse costs associated with relocating utilities in public rights of way.

The proposed amendments present significant challenges to counties like ours, which could have broad implications for both fiscal budgeting and public service management:

- **Increased Financial Burden:** Dickinson County, like many others in Kansas, operates under stringent budget constraints. Requiring counties to bear the full cost of utility relocations will strain already tight fiscal resources, potentially leading to increased taxes or reduced public services to meet these unexpected obligations.
- **Impact on Public Projects:** Utility relocations are a common necessity during road and infrastructure improvements. If counties are responsible for all relocation costs, essential public projects could face delays or cancellations. This would slow down infrastructure developments crucial for economic growth and community safety.
- **Equity and Fairness Considerations:** Utility companies benefit from access to public rights of way, paid for and maintained by taxpayer dollars. It seems inequitable for counties, and by extension their taxpayers, to assume all costs associated with relocations that ultimately serve the interests of these private entities.

We urge the committee to reconsider these amendments to SB 57 and consider alternatives that would protect the fiscal health of Kansas counties while still achieving the bill's intended goals.

Thank you for your attention to the concerns of Dickinson County, as well as those of other counties across Kansas. We are committed to working collaboratively on solutions that balance the need for infrastructure improvements with fair financial responsibilities.

Respectfully,

Dickinson County Commissioners
Kenny Roelofsen

Lynn Peterson

Ron Roller