



**Senate Committee on Utilities
Hearing on SB 57
Hearing Date – Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

**Written Testimony regarding SB 57 on behalf of the City of Manhattan
By Danielle Dulin, City Manager**

Good morning, Chair Flagg, Vice Chair Peterson, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Utilities.

The City of Manhattan (“City”) opposes SB 57. If adopted, this bill would require cities and other political subdivisions to reimburse the owner or operator of communications or video service facilities for the costs to modify or relocate such facilities for certain road and highway projects.

- The City undertakes road and highway projects to improve public safety, to facilitate growth and to maintain necessary public transportation infrastructure. SB 57 will funnel public dollars to private companies when a city undertakes important transportation projects, making the projects more expensive and reducing the scope of improvements that can be made.
- The City supports legislation allowing cities to continue maintaining public rights-of-way (“ROW”) within city limits. Franchise laws must ensure that private use of public ROW is done in a responsible, safe way that does not interfere with use by the public or other franchisees. This bill interferes with a city’s ability to improve and regulate its ROW by prioritizing one type of private user over all others, including the Manhattan taxpayers and visitors who use the ROW for transportation.
- This bill may encourage other private utilities to pursue similar benefits, which will only divert more public dollars away from public infrastructure. The City has numerous franchise agreements to ensure that private utilities are accountable for relocation of their private facilities, as needed, for publicly funded infrastructure projects.
- SB 57 will increase the burden on taxpayers by increasing the costs of public road and highway projects in Manhattan and throughout the State of Kansas.

SB 57 will negatively impact the City of Manhattan. Therefore, the City of Manhattan respectfully asks you to vote “no” on SB 57.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.