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March 14, 2012

House Elections Committee

RE: HB2780

Members of the House Elections Committee:

“SHALL CHARTER ORDINANCE 216 ENTITLED: "A Charter Ordinance amending and repealing Section 1 of Charter Ordinance No. 213, of the City of Wichita, Kansas, which amended and repealed Section 1 of Charter Ordinance No. 183 of the City of Wichita which amended and repealed Section 1 of Charter Ordinance No. 174 of the City of Wichita, Kansas pertaining to the application of revenues from the transient guest tax" **TAKE EFFECT?"**

That is the question that was on the ballot for the City of Wichita Special Election held on February 28, 2012. As would be expected, this was confusing to even the savviest of voters. Voters began calling our office as soon as they received their ballots. Many were incredibly frustrated because Election Officials could not offer them any explanation of the question.

Countless voters expressed a desire to have a “plain language” explanation of some kind available at the polling location and for those voting in Advance. A neutral “Ballot Language Statement” would be an invaluable resource for both the voter and the Election Official, giving much needed clarification of the question to the voter.

The staff of the Sedgwick County Election Office fervently requests that you support HB2780 thereby providing transparency to the voter, ensuring their confidence in the Electoral process.

Sincerely,

Tabitha Lehman
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