



**TESTIMONY OF ADAM SMITH, WALLACE COUNTY COMMISSIONER
VICE-PRESIDENT OF KANSAS LEGISLATIVE POLICY GROUP
BEFORE THE SENATE ETHICS, ELECTIONS AND
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
RE: SENATE BILL NO. 109
FEBRUARY 11, 2013**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Cloud

Ellis

Finney

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Lane

Logan

Meade

Morton

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Seward

Scott

Sheridan

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

Dear Chairman Pyle and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) is providing testimony in opposition to Senate Bill No. 109. KLPG is a non-partisan, non-profit corporation of elected commissioners from 31 rural Kansas counties. I appreciate the opportunity to submit remarks on this issue, because our members recognize that it is of great importance for legislative committees to hear from constituent groups on matters before them.

Kansas Legislative Policy Group supports each county's ability to use individual home rule authority and opposes any state-imposed limitations on our authority which restricts the jurisdiction of a board of county commissioners over their statutorily mandated or authorized functions within their borders.

My fellow County Commissioners and I oppose Senate Bill No. 109 and I would like to explain how I feel it could negatively affect public entities such as schools, cities, and counties.

I am a fourth generation Wallace County farmer & rancher, with a solid family history of public service in school board, county government, and even the state legislature. Currently, I am serving on the county commission and my wife is serving on the Weskan school board. We have a vested interest in public affairs, and it is that deep commitment that compels me to write these remarks.

I oppose Senate Bill No. 109 starting with the initial language that states "No public funds may be used directly or indirectly for lobbying." I am a county commissioner and paid a salary with public funds for my time conducting county business. Under this new law I would not be able to:

- spend time writing this testimony.
- call and speak with a legislator, certainly not from a county-paid phone.
- travel to Topeka to meet with a legislator and have any of my travel expenses reimbursed.