



Date: March 7, 2013

To: Senate Committee on Ethics, Elections, and Local Government

From: Mike Koss,  
Staff Attorney

Re: SB 150  
Opposition Testimony

Thank you for allowing the League to testify in opposition to SB 150. Kansas cities have fair and open bidding policies, and this bill places unnecessary regulations on their procurement procedures.

Cities often utilize supplies, equipment, and information technologies that are only compatible with specific products. Prohibiting discrimination based on compatibility would open the bidding process to companies that don't provide optimal goods and services. The bill would also prohibit the consideration of long-term costs associated with certain products, such as energy efficiency, health and safety, and liability issues. Local officials should be allowed to conduct a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis when procuring goods and services. This bill would prohibit consideration of many factors necessary for that analysis, possibly causing future costs to taxpayers.

We are also concerned about the undefined phrases "unreasonable requirements", "adequate and acceptable", and "competent authorities." Without interpretations of these phrases, or knowledge of who will enforce the bill, local governments will have no way to comply with the new rules.

For the reasons stated above, we oppose SB 150 and ask that you not to pass this bill out of committee. Thank you for your consideration.