



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

From: Michael Koss
Staff Attorney

Date: March 12, 2013

RE: HB 2118
Proponent

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support HB 2118. By removing the state environs authority, this bill gives Kansas residents the ability to control historic preservation regulations at the local level.

Kansas currently has one of the nation's stricter "environs" statutes, as even private buildings are subject to its requirements. Within the environs of properties on national or state registers, state approval can be necessary for local issues such as zoning changes and building permits. That is unfair to private citizens wishing to enjoy the full use of their properties, and to local governments trying to encourage economic development. Kansas communities are the intended beneficiaries of historic preservation rules, and their citizens and elected officials should be allowed to develop their own regulations for areas around their historic properties.

In conclusion, the League respectfully requests the committee report HB 2118 favorably for passage. Thank you for your consideration.