



AIA Kansas
*A Chapter of the American
Institute of Architects*

March 12, 2013

TO: Senator Pyle and Members of the Ethics, Elections and Local
Government Committee

FROM: Julia Manglitz, AIA Kansas Government Affairs

RE: Opposition to HB 2118

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Timothy Clark, AIA
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Good morning Senator Pyle and members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing the American Institute of Architects to provide this testimony in opposition to HB 2118.

AIA Kansas is a statewide association of architects and intern architects. Most of our 680 members work in over 100 private practice architectural firms designing a variety of project types for both public and private clients. Our members are designing tomorrow's buildings today, aiming to meet the "triple bottom line" by designing buildings that are affordable, protect the health and safety of the building occupants, and that respect our environment.

HB 2118 proposes to eliminate the environs review entirely. Environs review has been the law for some 25 years. Review occurs by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or by a Certified Local Government (CLG) which issues a recommendation regarding the impact to properties listed on the State and National Historic Registers of work within their environs. Properly applied, environs reviews can:

- Protect historic properties by ensuring that changes to the immediate environment around the property are compatible with the context.
- Protect the existing investment a property owner and a community have already made in designated historic properties, through private and public money.
- Enable local discussion about the salient historic factors that should be considered when major changes are proposed.

In the last five years, the SHPO has given a recommendation of "no adverse effect" in over 90% of their environs reviews. The current State Historic Preservation Statute has done much to incentivize sustainable development, and it should be left intact. Construction is a the largest driver of our economy and historic preservation related construction projects have been a major contributor to providing jobs, putting underused properties back into use (and on the tax rolls), and increasing heritage tourism by helping Kansas maintain its unique character.¹ We urge you to oppose this bill.

1. Rutgers University, Center for Urban Policy Research Study.
http://kpalliance.org/images/Kansas_Executive_Summary_for_Web.pdf

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