



January 31, 2024

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2537 House Local Government Committee

Chair Bergquist and Members of the Committee:

The Northeast Johnson County cities of Merriam, Mission, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, and Westwood Hills oppose HB 2537. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB 2537, which we believe challenges our cities' home rule authority and requires unnecessary administrative activity.

We are opposed to House Bill 2537 because it too clearly reflects a response to a localized, very specific and unique event that draws some attention, culminating in a new bill impacting every governmental entity's contracting. We are opposed to House Bill 2537 not specifically related to any one component, but to the overall breadth and universal application of state authority over local government contracts. Not all the provisions of DA-146a are problematic including the reminder about protections of rights and the waiver of liability issues. However, many contractual agreements are not large, and much of the verbiage in DA-146a is extraneous. Other provisions such as the "Kansas choice of law" seem unnecessary for Kansas contracts, and superfluous or unattainable when dealing with large contracts with nationwide or worldwide companies not based in Kansas.

We request the committee oppose House Bill 2537 in the interest of preserving the locally elected leaders' authority to govern in the most efficient manner. HB 2537 takes local discretion off the table and contributes complexity where it is usually not needed.

Thank you for your consideration, and we welcome any questions or further discussion you may have on this matter.

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