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March 5, 2024

Representative Emil Bergquist, Chair
House Committee on Local Government
300 SW 10th Avenue,
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Subject: Written Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB 362

Dear Chairman Bergquist and members of the House Committee on Local Government,

I OPPOSE the passage of SB 362 that would repeal the sunset date of July 1, 2024, for the Sedgwick County Urban Area Nuisance Abatement Act and make the Act PERMANENT.

I have been following county code enforcement issues in rural Sedgwick County for several years as a supporter of a local group called Kansans Advocating Responsible Zoning (KARZ). The stories that KARZ members tell involving code officials arbitrarily and subjectively violating rural Sedgwick County property owners' private property rights have been numerous and ugly.

To date, the Sedgwick County Commission has never had the need to use provisions of the current Act to deal with any code enforcement case. To leave an unused Act in place permanently, that could be used as a "tool" for the code enforcement bureaucracy to potentially use against rural non-farm Sedgwick County property owners is unacceptable.

Therefore, the current Sedgwick County Urban Area Nuisance Abatement Act needs to sunset!
Please OPPOSE the passage of SB 362!

Sincerely,

John R. Todd,
Retired Real Estate Broker, and citizen.