

Hello,

I wanted to voice my opposition of SB 468.

I am the Fire Chief of the South Haven Fire Department, located in Sumner County. I am perplexed as to why state leaders would even consider this bill. My city and Sumner County are very small and rely on the small amount of tax monies we receive. Sometimes with growth, taxes must be raised to accommodate requirements that come with the growth. I am currently facing this issue at a much smaller scale with fire protection fees. While we face this funding issue, it is difficult to attract new entities to our area to increase that base funding. Economic incentive programs put our small areas on the map of interest for developers. While some entities still need to exceed the revenue neutral rate, the eventual goal is to not.

If this bill is passed, it will absolutely create havoc for Sumner County in regard to recruitment, expansion, and retention. Our toolbox is so limited now, that something like this will only stagnant the growth of Sumner County and other rural counties. Additionally, at a time when childcare and housing are such critical components to growth, the need for those will be eliminated if SB 468 passes. If there are no new jobs through growth or expansions, there will be no need for additional housing nor childcare centers. No growth means no students in our schools too. These are just a couple examples of the impact.

I can speak specifically in South Haven's case, if our school was no longer operating, our town would certainly be a thing of the past. Because we are so close to the Oklahoma border, I would suspect that many of the area residents would conduct business and probably move to Oklahoma.

**Seth Brown**

**Chief**

South Haven Fire Department, City of South Haven, KS