



Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

House Bill 2083

Paul T. Davis
On behalf of the

Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

Senate Committee on Local Government
March 21, 2023

Chair McGinn and Members of the Committee.

I am Paul Davis, lobbyist for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas (“the UG”), and I am pleased to submit written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2083. The UG has a vacant property registry and would be adversely affected by this legislation.

As is the case in many Kansas communities, Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas has many vacant properties. These properties frequently are in disrepair and are ripe for criminal activity. There are many fires that occur in vacant properties. When a property is vacant and unsecured it can often result in a public safety issue.

The UG has used its vacant property registry to catalog and monitor these properties so that blight in neighborhoods can be minimized. The goal of the registry is also to create a mechanism where vacant properties can be brought into compliance with city/county ordinances, repaired, and sold. There is a true community benefit to clearly identifying vacant properties, preventing blight, criminal activity, and fires, and establishing a way for properties to be repaired and sold.

Lastly, I want to note that this is a fundamental issue of local control. There is no statewide issue concerning vacant property registries that calls for action by the Legislature. Vacant property registries address local issues and control of these registries should remain at the local level. Communities have different needs and determination of how to address these needs is best left to local units of government.

On behalf of the UG, I thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony and I request that the committee not move forward with favorable action on House Bill 2083.