



City of Lawrence

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February 6, 2023

Representative Emil Bergquist, Chair
House Committee on Local Government
Room: 149-S, Topeka, KS 66612
Re: House Bill 2150

Dear Chairman Bergquist,

I write on behalf of the City of Lawrence in opposition of HB2150 and urge the committee to reject legislation that would take away a tool that has assisted cities - and counties - to ensure adequate and orderly development of land in the years since the initial adoption of K.S.A. 12-749 in 1991.

HB 2150 would repeal city planning and zoning authority within the three-mile area extending from city boundaries. This power is sometimes known as extra-territorial jurisdiction. This may sound menacing. In practice, the legislation which HB2150 proposes repealing provides a mechanism that helps cities ensure adequate and orderly development as they grow, for instance where long term planning includes annexation. Through the use of this planning and zoning capability, cities can set out plans and intentions to inform community partners. In addition, the existing legislation enables cities to protect the use of land on the edge of the municipality from being encroached on by activities that are incompatible with the city's development plans and which could degrade property within the city.

While the City of Lawrence does not at present have any arrangements that would be impacted by HB2150, the City nevertheless values the law as presently drafted. The City of Lawrence embraces our community commitment to environmental sustainability and economic development and growth as highlighted in our Strategic Plan and reflected in our Legislative Priorities and values every tool which assists in achieving planning and zoning in a way that supports the City's values.

The City of Lawrence respectfully requests that the Committee acknowledge the importance of local government retaining the ability to act in issues such as those covered by HB2150 and refrain from passing HB2150 out of committee.

Sincerely,

Craig S. Owens
City Manager

CC: Mayor and City Commission, Head of Planning and Development

