

House Local Government Committee March 11, 2024 SB 162

Kansas Association of Counties Proponent Testimony – Written Testimony

Chairman Berquist and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer testimony in support of SB 162, which would allow Riley County and Crawford County to establish procedures and processes to abate and remove nuisances in the unincorporated areas of their respective counties.

Local control is a foundational principle of the Kansas Association of Counties, because government closest to the people can best serve the needs of the community and is often best positioned to respond to the community.

Nuisance abatement is a local issue. When issues arise in this area, county officials are the ones that are tasked with responding. SB 162 would allow Riley County and Crawford County to establish procedures for abating and removing nuisances, as well as collecting costs, if any, to the county for such actions. This is important for county government because these processes allow individuals notice and time to respond locally if there are issues with property, but also give an avenue to address these issues. It should be noted that this authority would require a court order in order to proceed.

KAC supports our member counties in asking for authority to act on behalf of their residents and asks the committee to support SB 162. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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