

Dear committee,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB 2518. Quite frankly, I wish to see the dissolution of Benefit Districts altogether; however, I recognize this is an important first step in providing homeowners or would be homeowners with more rights and protections. I am a property owner in Cedar Creek, a subdivision in Olathe, that has been subject to many Benefit Districts over the years and many residents purchased lots or homes in sections of this neighborhood without any disclosure to them that they would be purchasing in an area where a special assessment had been approved by the City Council, as it was not part of their real estate contract. Many homeowners are unfamiliar with Benefit Districts and therefore, it's critically important this bill makes it out of committee and to the floor to help bolster full disclosure to real estate buyers by requiring disclosure.

Again, ultimately I would like to see Benefit Districts completely abolished in Kansas. We are already highly taxed in this state as it is and this is just another tax without representation. But HB2518 is a step in the right direction to provide additional protections for property owners. I know you will be lobbied by developers and other businesses who benefit from infrastructure being built on the backs of homeowners rather than those who will truly benefit – the developer who will sell more lots or the business owners who will have potential enhanced traffic. I urge you to consider the little guy in this – the one that doesn't have attorneys, lobbyists and a machine at their disposal. Please give homeowners more protection by passing HB2518.

Thank you,

Julie Lair

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