

To: gary.deeter@house.ks.gov

Subject: Proponent Testimony - HB 2518

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am writing in support of HB 2518. The use of residential benefit districts is all too often unfair. It is largely an outdated tool that allows local municipal government to partner with a majority landowner to create a district that rarely proportionately benefits all property owners within the designated district.

It is an unfair method to shift new infrastructure costs to homeowners who are already paying appropriately derived property taxes. The method in which benefit district special assessments are added to existing property taxes, constitutes taxation without representation.

In their current form, residential benefit districts allow local government to abrogate its responsibility to adequately fund the cost of new infrastructure. It shifts the burden to the principal landowner who in turn, spreads the cost to all property owners within the district. This is unfair by any standard of measure.

There are multiple alternative funding mechanisms available to local government. There is nothing that prevents local government from sharing the cost of new infrastructure construction with the principal landowner. These are the true beneficiaries.

Thank you for HB 2518. The protection provided by this legislation will be well-received by all homeowners.

Sincerely,

Dean Vakas
26702 West 109th Street
Olathe, Kansas 66048

