

**Presented to Committee on Federal and State Affairs
February 16, 2016**

RE: HOUSE BILL No.2380

Mike Todd

**Currently serving as a Governor Brownback Appointee from Douglas County to the
Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS) Board**

First, I would like to extend my appreciation to Committee members for this opportunity to speak about the proposed amendments to House Bill No. 2380, regarding a change in how the district/territory representatives are selected to serve on the Kansas Library System Boards. Please know that my presence here in front of this committee and my comments are in support of these proposed amendments.

I was appointed to the Northeast Kansas Library System (NEKLS) Board in 2012 and continue to satisfy the responsibilities of this position by having participated in the NEKLS annual meetings, visiting the NEKLS office, conferring with area librarians, frequently visiting libraries to observe their many activities for children and adults, as well as serving as community centers.

With the understanding that the 7 Kansas Library Boards have taxing authority upon all citizens of their respective counties; it is as a taxpayer and as a NEKLS Board member, that I feel these proposed amendments to House Bill No. 2380 would provide greater accountability to taxpayers through utilizing local community appointers – the County Commissioners. Because the County Commissioners live and work in these same communities and counties, they would be more accessible to the electorate and therefore be able to maintain greater community accountability for their appointments to the Kansas Library System Boards and for the associated taxing authority these Boards retain, which would provide all citizens a stronger voice in the board making taxing decisions.

My support of these changes shared with you today, is with a unique caveat; because given the current political climate in the county where I currently serve, I am well aware that passage of these changes would most likely diminish my chances to continue serving on the NEKLS Board; but I believe doing the right thing and serving the greater good by having more local accountability of these taxing entities would be the best method to serve the local citizenry and the Kansas Library Boards.

I want thank each of the committee members for taking the time today to listen to my comments. I thank you in advance for your consideration towards improving the accountability of taxation authority for the citizens of Kansas, and I respectfully ask for your support of these amendments to House Bill No. 2380.

In service to Kansas, I am; Mike Todd