

HB2292 Proponent Written Testimony of Mr. Evan Parsons, 23 February 2015

To the Honorable Steve Huebert, Chair of the House Local Government Committee and members of the Local Government Committee:

As a business owner in Riley County, where a Public Building Commission has recently come into existence, I am very concerned about the power these entities can wield.

The unelected officials on these Public Building Commissions can commit the residents of that city/county to a debt that the residents may never have passed had the bond gone to a vote.

I have lived my whole life in Kansas and have owned a business for the past 20 years. My business relies on other companies that sell services to other businesses or residents here in Kansas. When residents are put under a heavy tax burden, businesses begin to fail or leave the state causing local economies to suffer greatly and ultimately impacting the state.

And it is my understanding that if the payments on bonds issued by a Public Building Commission are not made, possibly due to a severe economic downturn, the state is obligated to make the payments. So, if we have even one city/county that this happens in, it will not only affect those residents of that city/county, it will affect all the residents of Kansas.

My goal is to retire here in the Manhattan area, if I can afford it. With the economy in Kansas slowing and the debt that our county and city have already accumulated, I'm not so sure I can afford the taxes that seem to be looming on the horizon.

Please pass House Bill 2296 out of Committee and give the residents of Kansas the right to vote on bonds that Public Building Commissions want to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Evan Parsons  
3005 Shane Creek Ln  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
785-776-0222  
evan@parsonscomm.com