

CITY OF SHAWNEE

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SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE HEARING ON SB 403

Written Testimony in Opposition of SB 403 on behalf of the City of Shawnee

By Katie Killen, Assistant City Manager

March 2, 2016

Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee:

SB 403 seeks to cap revenues generated by traffic fines at 10% of a city's general operating budget. In addition, it caps the amount of each traffic fine on a highway that a municipality can keep at 30%, while remitting the rest to the state.

The City of Shawnee makes it very clear that our traffic enforcement is related to safety and not revenue generation. The City of Shawnee falls below the 10% cap and only 8.3% of our traffic stops in the last three years have been on a highway. Based on these numbers the current bill is likely to have minimal impact revenue wise. The City of Shawnee does oppose such actions; however, in the precedent it sets.

Local governments should be able to monitor such revenues accordingly and adjust if it becomes an issue for the community. The Shawnee Governing Body strongly supports local control and this type of legislation goes directly against local decision making.

Additionally, while the City of Shawnee does not view our traffic enforcement as a revenue generator, it seems ill-conceived to take away funds to compensate the state when it is our resident's local tax dollars going to provide for the City's Traffic Safety Program. Offsetting revenue is always helpful in making our City dollars stretch and this type of legislation with its precedent could impact such offsets in the future.

For these reasons, the City of Shawnee opposes SB 403. Thank you for your consideration.

