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SB366 testimony to the Kansas Senate Federal and State Committee,  
January 24<sup>th</sup>

Please note that I am the County Commissioner, District 3, for JoCo. I am here testifying as a private citizen, not as an elected official.

When the U.S. Postal service fails in delivering mail, our country is slow walking to disaster.

Last week, my mail was delivered once. I mailed a letter Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, and another one on Friday. Saturday came and went; the flag was still up. Sunday evening, Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, driving home from watching the Chief's game at my son's house, I noticed a neighbor collecting his mail. Arriving home, I checked my mailbox and sure enough, late evening, ON A SUNDAY, my two letters had been collected AND last Wednesday's mail delivered.....the grocery store shopping ads were the giveaway on what late mail was delivered. I have at least 3 days of mail floating around in the system somewhere.

My experience is validated by the Fox 4 News report dated May 25, 2023, which states that the turnover rate for postal workers in their first year is 60% with 79-hour workweeks and one letter carrier working 114 hours a week.

From the same report, I quote, "Mail delivery has become so erratic that **Congress ordered an investigation and audit** by the inspector general for the United States Postal Service."

A December 18, 2023 Fox 4 News report stated, "Twenty employees at one Kansas City metro post office are under investigation after hundreds of Amazon packages went missing, according to a source who was once employed there."

Why is the USPS a subject in my testimony on SB353, better known as the Fred Sherman Bill? Mail-in ballots are the underlying issue we are discussing and these ballots are directly impacted by the apparent melt down of the USPS.

Not only is Johnson County responding to advance mail-in ballot requests from registered voters in Johnson County, but last year, the Johnson County Election Commissioner, solely on his authority, without consulting with the Secretary of State's Office and not supported by the SOS Office (per testimony given in Senate hearing), mailed out 417,856 prefilled advance mail-in ballot applications.

A quote from Election Commissioner, Fred Sherman, when I inquired about the cost of the prefilled advance ballot mailing:

We were able to utilize a sweet non-profit USPS rate:

Application mailer invoiced costs:

Printing: \$65,417.51 (payable to SeaChange)

Postage: \$65,638.18 (deducted from postage account with USPS)

Total Cost \$131,055.69

Total pieces 417,856

Cost per piece: \$0.314

Where do I even begin?

1. **Security:** What happens within the USPS as these mail-in applications are floating around for days in their system? This adversely impacts the process and hugely adds to security concerns of mail in ballots, already the weakest link in our election process.
2. **Authority:** Why would the state stand mute while a local county election commissioner unilaterally mails 417,865 prefilled advance ballot applications without consulting and or receiving approval from the Secretary of State?
3. **Fiscal:** Perhaps the election commissioner believes that he received a sweet deal from the USPS, but perhaps not incurring the cost of \$131,055.69 would have been a “sweeter deal” for the Johnson County taxpayers.

Obviously, the crisis within the USPS is growing and becoming quite alarming to the point that reconsideration of mail-in ballots is a must. The security of mail-in ballots and making sure that voters have their votes count is essential.

I strongly urge you to work this bill, prohibit the mass mailing of prefilled advance ballot applications and send SB366 to the floor for a vote to begin bringing sanity back into our elections.