

2/4/2024  
SB 446  
Written Only

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Private Citizen

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me time to share my thoughts on SB 446. My name is Jonathan Smith, I am a voter in Shawnee County, and I'm writing today to encourage you to OPPOSE SB 446 as it is written, and if you want to pass it, it would need to be substantially re-worded.

If I am to understand this bill correctly, it is aimed at limiting the impact and undue forces of foreign entities and businesses when it comes to manipulating our local real estate markets.

I agree that this is a serious issue, that may not be happening en masse in Kansas now, but it could certainly happen in the future.

My concern is that without providing specific wording that uniquely targets businesses, countries, and entities from purchasing up our real property, hard-working foreign-born Kansans will be robbed of the opportunity to achieve their American Dream in Kansas.

As the bill is currently written, someone who has legally chosen to live here in Kansas, who chooses to buy land, start a farm, or business in Kansas, will be rebuffed or denied the right that drives at the roots of our American Dream.

Our entire country is built upon the backs of foreign immigrants from Germany, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Sweden, all over the world, who come here to start a new life in America, and sometimes that starts with buying land, and building a home.

Passing this bill as it is written will drive people away from Kansas and will lead to the further death of our rural towns and neighborhoods.

If this is an issue that we truly want to fix. We need to prevent businesses, countries, foreign oligarchs, entities, hedge funds, and the wealthy from buying up entire neighborhoods just to convert them into rentals, robbing the local population from the opportunity of buying a house in a neighborhood and building a community. NOT blocking individuals from starting a new life by blocking them from buying land.

Once again, I thank you for your time. I urge you to vote IN OPPOSITION to SB 446. If you wish to address the issues this bill is concerned about, you will need to substantially re-write this bill to not target individual land and home-buyers.