

4910 Glendale Rd.
Westwood Hills, KS 66205
February 18, 2024

Dear Honorable Senator Mike Thompson,

SB 474 is a very important amendment to protect state citizens' right to have a say in local governments. Cities have been abusive to citizens, forcing them to engage in costly fights just to have their elected representatives listen to them.

I am sorry I will not be able to testify in person on Tuesday. I am pleased my voice from my last visit has been considered.

This abuse from City Governments regarding citizen petitions is statewide. It is not a partisan issue and has no political party attached. My current example is the fight to invalidate a protest petition regarding the rezoning and sale of a park in Westwood, KS.

The threshold of 40% of those participating in the electoral process should get the local governments' attention. It is a measurable hurdle for a citizen's grass roots effort to achieve who are often under a tremendous deadline to get organized.

The games played to make the citizens efforts too costly to fight while using the taxpayer's or developer's money to oppose such a petition is wrong. In the case of the Westwood petition, the Kansas Attorney General must defend the state law and is paying taxpayers money to do so.

All of this is due to the local government's opposition and wanting to ignore a legitimate petition issue. Senate bill 474 is a citizen's right amendment and needs to be passed.

Sincerely yours,


Stephen Platt
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Cc:

Senator Rick Kloos
Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau
Senator Chase Blasi
Senator Cindy Holscher
Senator Jeff Longbine
Senato Mike Pettersen
Senator Ronald Ryckman
Senator Alicia Straub