



CITY MANAGER

Date: January 27, 2025
To: Chairman Bergquist & the House Committee on Local Government
From: Kiel Mangus, City Manager, City of Derby
Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 2025

Thank you for allowing the City of Derby to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2025. As a thriving community experiencing substantial growth and investment, Derby is a prime example of how planning beyond a city's borders promotes development through consistent, efficient, and connected delivery of services.

Since 2000, Derby has grown from a community of 18,000 to a thriving city of over 26,000 people. Derby's annual growth rate is greater than one percent. Few other Kansas communities are seeing such growth. Derby knows the value of long-range planning and has seen that planning translate into growth. Further, Derby is not immediately surrounded by other cities. There is room to grow which adds to developer excitement and interest while fulfilling residents' desire for a high-quality community that features strong schools, recreation, entertainment and retail opportunities, community gathering venues, and green spaces.

As Derby grows, we continue to look at community core enhancement and we work with developers and the community to determine next steps in our growth. Our advancement typically comes through voluntary requests of developers who have purchased acreage for development but need the utility and infrastructure hook-ups and service level that come with being within the city limits. Furthermore, while city planners are aware of multi-acre residences outside of town, the City typically has limited interaction with these homeowners, reserving engagement on subdivision requirements for instances where the ground has been sold or new development is occurring.

City planning is critical for a growing city like Derby. City planning is not a convenience, but rather a commitment to residents and their desire for a strong community. It is a fundamental necessity and has ramifications far into the future of the community and region. Because Derby now includes land originally platted and developed in the unincorporated county

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without application of subdivision regulations, Derby understands firsthand the challenges presented when street connections and standards, utility extensions, and drainage areas are not considered. Zoning areas of influence and subdivision jurisdictions allow growing communities like Derby to plan for future growth in a smart, efficient, and sustainable manner and fulfill the goals of the community's comprehensive plan. Derby's subdivision regulations and plat reviews emphasize future street connections, extension of utility services, dedication of adequate right-of-way, access controls for traffic safety, and drainage standards designed to mitigate flood events and damage to adjacent properties. Without this structure, communities may grow in stunted, inefficient, or segmented patterns, creating challenges for future extension of infrastructure and services.

HB 2025 creates significant challenges for a growing community like Derby. We are proud to be a community on the rise and we want to continue to work with our residents inside and outside of town to ensure we can build a city that grows and prospers in an organized fashion well into the future. We urge you not to adopt HB 2025.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to HB 2025 and for your consideration.

