

January 27, 2025

Written Testimony in Support of HB2025:

Thank you for taking the time to read my view on this important piece of legislation.

I believe this legislation is of paramount importance to help restrict cities from arbitrarily using the 3-mile zone for taxation purposes. Removing city zoning rules will eliminate city control over county landowners.

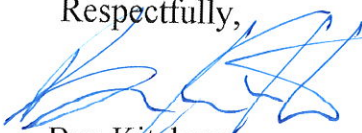
To most Kansans, their property is their number one asset. In Geary County, as in many counties across our fine state, generations of families have farmed, raised families and provided food for many. Rural means rural!

People choose to live in the county for many reasons, mainly for the rural living. County citizens don't wish to be regulated by the cities near them. County citizens don't want to pay higher taxes.

To continue to allow cities to lawfully impose their ordinances, licenses and restrictions on property owners in a 3-mile circle who cannot elect the city's leaders is not representative government. In the case of Junction City, my hometown for many years, 46 properties were annexed 18 years ago upon the return of the big Red One to Ft. Riley. Many of the properties were added without services and only a handful were given full services. Build it and they will come didn't serve us very well. The debt incurred during this time grew to \$155M and will not be paid off until 2027.

In closing, this bill will help ensure citizens will have a voice on the development that wants to come into their area. It is only fair and the time is right to remove this 3-mile extension beyond city limits. I respectfully ask you for your support of HB2025.

Respectfully,



Ben Kitchens

January 27, 2025

Written Testimony in Support of SB37:

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