



City of Lawrence

CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

DAVID L. CORLISS
CITY MANAGER

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CITY COMMISSION
MAYOR
ARON E. CROMWELL

COMMISSIONERS
ROBERT J. SCHUMM
MICHAEL DEVER
HUGH CARTER
MIKE AMYX

February 14, 2012

Re: *House Bill 2639*

Via Electronic Mail

Hon. Representative Steve Huebert, Chair
House Standing Committee on Local Government
Kansas State Capitol, Rm. 144-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Huebert and Members of the House Local Government Committee:

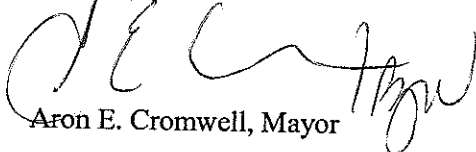
On behalf of the governing body of the City of Lawrence, I am writing to express opposition to House Bill 2639, which proposes changes relating to how municipalities manage commercial solid waste. The collection of solid waste has important public health, welfare, and safety implications for every community. Local governing bodies, elected by the citizens receiving the service, should be free to determine how and by whom the services are provided.

The proposed bill prohibits municipalities from engaging in commercial solid waste activity unless formal bids are taken from private companies. Municipalities would be prohibited from providing commercial solid waste services if there was a private enterprise that could provide the service at the same or lower cost as the municipality.

The City of Lawrence strongly opposes this bill as it is written. In Lawrence, solid waste services are provided by the Sanitation Division of the Department of Public Works. The division provides Residential Collection; Commercial Collection and Waste Reduction and Recycling services for Lawrence residents. Establishing one procedure for the provision of commercial solid waste services is not efficient or good public policy. Municipalities must be able to evaluate and plan all solid waste services for the community so efficient and effective services can be provided to all customers. While the cost of providing commercial solid waste service is certainly a very important factor, it should not be the sole factor for determining a commercial solid waste service provider. The City's governing body, elected by the citizens who use and pay for the service, should be able to determine how all solid waste services are provided for the community.

For these reasons, the City of Lawrence respectfully requests that you not recommend passage of House Bill 2639. If you would like more information about the City's position on this legislation, please contact our City Manager, David Corliss, at dcorliss@lawrenceks.org or by telephone at (785) 832-3400.

Sincerely,



Aron E. Cromwell, Mayor

cc: City Commission and David L. Corliss, City Manager



We are committed to providing excellent city services that enhance the quality of life for the Lawrence Community