



Hutchinson Public Schools

*Today and Tomorrow:
Committed to Excellence for All*

USD 308 Administration Center
1520 North Plum • P.O. Box 1908
Hutchinson, KS 67504-1908
Telephone: 620-615-4009
Web Page: www.usd308.com

DR. SHELLY KIBLINGER
SUPERINTENDENT

February 9, 2012

House Local Government Committee
3:30 P.M.
RE: Support of HB 2555

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing this opportunity to present testimony in support of HB 2555.

In 1947 the Hutchinson Recreation Commission was founded as a school-sponsored independent Recreation Commission. At that time, the boundaries of the two entities were nearly identical. But today, the city and school district of Hutchinson have a unique situation. The boundaries of 308 lie within the city limits of Hutchinson, with approximately 25% of the taxable property of the city lying outside of 308 boundaries.

In the spring of 2011, the 308 board of education approached the city with the idea of expanding the tax-base of Recreation Commission to the city, to allow for more equalized taxation upon the residents of the city, all of whom may utilize the programs of the Hutchinson Recreation Commission.

A study commission was formed to consider this situation. The commission recommended expansion of the tax base to the city, as this would provide for a stronger Recreation Commission, which will be better poised to offer quality services to the city of Hutchinson, both now and in the future. This will allow the Recreation Commission's services to expand as Hutchinson continues to expand.

Current legislation does not provide for an efficient method to transfer sponsorship of an existing Recreation Commission from a school district and city.

Currently, the Recreation Commission is funded by a 4.949 mill levy on the residents of USD 308. The impact of a city sponsored recommission would be lowering of tax rate for USD 308 tax payers to 3.669 mills. This results in a tax savings of \$7 per year on a \$50,000 property. City residents not residing in USD 308 would see a tax increase of a modest \$20 per year on a \$50,000 property.

We feel this legislation will allow the Hutchinson Recreation Commission to best serve the community of Hutchinson, both now and in the future.

Respectfully,

Dr. Shelly Kiblinger
Superintendent