

To: Members of the Local Government Committee

From: Ralph D. Unger, Decatur County Commissioner

Subject: HB 2190

To whom it may concern:

I speak in opposition to HB 2190. First, I feel the voters are given the option of term limits with every election. As the senior commissioner serving in the State of Kansas at the present time, this probably does not come as a shock to anyone, that I speak in opposition to this bill. Although I am currently starting my fortieth year as Decatur County Commissioner, I have been nominated by my party in ten primary elections and chosen by my district's voters in ten general elections. I have had either a primary contest, a general contest, or both in eight of the ten years I have been before the voters. They chose me to be their commissioner in each instance.

The second reason I oppose this bill, is that it would only apply to county commissioners and not other county and/or state officials. If it is good for county commissioners it should be good for the other officials also. I believe that history would probably support the fact that county commissioners in Kansas probably have a lower rate of re-election than do the other county offices.

If most voters feel any officer no longer represents their best interests, that officer will most likely be "term limited" at the next election by the voters in their district. This is democracy at work. If the official is doing a good job for the voters, the voters may choose to continue to use their experience for the benefit of their county. This also is democracy at work. I personally value good service and experience of elected officials as well as I do that of my Doctors, mechanics, and appliance repairman. The service I receive from each is what "term limits" any one for me personally. Thanks for your attention.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ralph D. Unger, Decatur County Kansas