



14 February 2012

Testimony By: Charlie Sedlock, Vice Chairman,  
Kansas Chapter, National Solid Waste Management Association

Regarding: HB 2639

Before: House Committee on Local Government

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlie Sedlock, Division Manager for Hamm, Inc. and Vice Chairman for the Kansas Chapter of National Solid Wastes Management Association (NSWMA). NSWMA is an industry and state wide trade association representing the waste services and environmental industry which provides valuable and sound environmental services to Kansans. On behalf of our members, I am happy to appear before you today in support of HB 2639 and I commend you for holding this hearing today on an important measure.

The purpose of HB 2639 is to provide a clear policy regarding the appropriate roles of the private and public sector in Kansas and what steps the public sector should take before entering the private marketplace. Our members believe in the system of free enterprise to offer environmentally sound and competitive services to the residents of Kansas.

However, in recent years some public sector entities have sought to sell or market their excess production to other units of government well outside their own political subdivision. Generally, this is done, at least outwardly to save the taxpayer money, but usually the activity ends up costing the taxpayer more as it ultimately reduces competition in the marketplace.

Unfair competition from the tax supported public sector has a negative impact on our industry as the loss of current customers and business leads to higher operating costs and ultimately higher prices. The waste services industry depends upon the public sector for a large amount of our business volume. In the last several years, this volume has been flat or declining and now the public sector is seeking to reduce our business further. Passage of HB 2639 would level the playing field for cities and counties who offer their services in a marketplace already served by the private sector.

It is our contention that local units should not be allowed to enter the private sector without operating under the same rules as all private Kansas service providers. This legislature routinely puts limits on all forms of governmental activity wherein reduced government activity is positive for the residents of Kansas. We ask that you put some reasonable limits on local authority today by recommending HB 2639 favorable for passage for the following reasons:

1. It restores the traditional balance between the public and private sector.
2. It provides a clear policy statement regarding governmental participation in the private sector.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will be happy to respond to any questions you may have at this time.

Charlie Sedlock  
Vice-Chair, KS Chapter, NSWMA