

**House Committee on Taxation**

**Hearing on House Bill 2176**

**Thursday, January 26, 2012 at 3:30 p.m.**

**Written Testimony of Ron R. Fehr**

**City Manager, City of Manhattan, Kansas**

Good afternoon Chair Carlson, Vice Chair Kleeb and Honorable Members of the House Taxation Committee. My name is Ron Fehr, and I am the City Manager for the City of Manhattan. I want to thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony to the Committee.

The City of Manhattan supports House Bill 2176 that would move the deadline for certifying municipal budgets to the county to September 25<sup>th</sup>. The current state imposed deadline for filing City budgets occurs in August of each year. The City of Manhattan is on a calendar year budget cycle, so this deadline requires us to publish our proposed budget nearly six months in advance of the end of the fiscal year. We must begin our budgeting process in spring to allow adequate time for thorough review and public input. By starting so early in the year, we have limited information available for producing accurate revenue and expense projections. The early timeframe is also challenging for incorporating budget requests from outside agencies. Additional time would potentially yield more accurate municipal budgets.

Thank you for your consideration, and I would be happy to answer any questions. I may be reached by mail at City Hall, City of Manhattan, 1101 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502, by phone at (785) 587-2404, or by email at [fehr@cityofmnhk.com](mailto:fehr@cityofmnhk.com).