



February 6, 2012

Committee on Taxation  
Representative Carlson -Chairperson

RE: HB 2350 Testimony

Dear Committee Members:


Butler County would like to thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of House Bill 2350. While HB 2350 does not address the current potential exemption issues with the TransCanada Pipeline, it does provide an equitable solution for future pipeline exemptions. As such, Butler County requests the provision establishing a construction commencement date of February 14, 2011, be stricken from the bill. With removal of the construction commencement date, Butler County would be in support of the bill and the other provisions contained within.

Currently Counties and Townships are incurring costs associated with projects of these types such as road maintenance and public safety support with no offsetting revenue. Since pipeline projects of this type are potentially exempt, the costs are spread back to the citizens and the general tax base placing an undue burden on our citizens. In the event of a break or rupture of the pipeline resulting in a release of product, counties would incur significant costs in mitigation and restoration with out any revenue support.

Butler County continues to battle over damages to County roads from the last pipeline project and may have to seek litigation to resolve the issue. The County has received numerous complaints about the damage to haul roads resulting from the pipeline project and has spent significant time and resources making temporary repairs. This is not an advantage to the citizens in our County, as we are spending resources and time on a project which provides no financial support in our County. This bill if modified and adopted would provide some financial support to help mitigate the situation.

With removal of the construction commencement date, Butler County would be in support of the bill, and would request the bill be approved and forwarded to the House as a whole for consideration. We appreciate the opportunity to testify before this committee and hope you will take into consideration our testimony on this bill.

Sincerely,

  
William H. Johnson, Jr.  
Butler County Administrator

William H. Johnson, Jr., County Administrator