

STATE OF KANSAS

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TOPEKA

HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

HB 2412

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Thank you Chairman Reitz and committee for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2412.

In the 2007 Session, the Kansas Legislature created a "Trust" that was charged with providing relocation opportunities, voluntary, not mandatory, for the citizens in Treece, Kansas.

Treece is a city marked by undermining and lead/zinc contamination, located on the Kansas/Oklahoma state line. Originally Treece was the northern portion of Picker, Oklahoma, but when survey errors were discovered the Kansas state boundaries were moved south in 1907 and north Picker, Ok. became Treece, Ks.

In the early 2000's Senator James Inhoff of Oklahoma arranged for a buyout of the Tar Creek Superfund Site in Oklahoma, and Kansas, with the support of Senator Roberts, added Treece to qualify for a voluntary buyout with the federal government providing 90% of the projected \$3.5 million costs.

The Trust has completed the relocation of all but one household, a husband and wife who chose to stay. I had hoped for an election by the city to surrender their charter but as the opportunity to relocate came available the residents moved as quickly as possible and never gave another thought to the city designation and how that may affect the Trust.

The Trust has paid all debts of the city and holds title to the city property as well as the residential properties. In order to transfer real estate owned by the city, the city must be dissolved. This will allow the Trust to complete their duties, transfer the properties, and end their mission.

I will offer a balloon amendment that will eliminate any un-intended consequences from this bill.

As you are aware this bill must meet the uniform standards code for municipalities so an individual city is not named. Instead, the language as drafted could dissolve the charter of a city in the future if any such portion of a city would receive relocation under the circumstances detailed in HB 2412. In order to prevent these unintended consequences I offer this amendment that will be specific to Federal funding provided in 2010 or 2011.

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee and I will be happy to stand for questions.