



To: House Committee on Local Government

From: Michael Koss, League of Kansas Municipalities

Date: February 5, 2013

RE: HB 2089

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of HB 2089. By removing the barrier to local control, this bill creates a process to decrease the regulatory burdens of historic preservation. HB 2089 also respects Constitutional home rule, which allows residents of every city to govern themselves by enacting and administering laws concerning local matters.

Kansas currently has one of the nation's stricter "environs" statutes. Even private buildings are subject to its requirements, so any zoning change or building permit to accommodate economic development can be held up or prohibited by the State. Because Kansas communities are the intended beneficiaries of historic preservation rules, their citizens and local officials should be allowed to develop the regulations necessary to preserve their historic properties. By allowing local governments to opt-out of the current process, you will give residents the opportunity to decide for themselves how to best balance economic growth and their historic identity.

In conclusion, we respectfully request the committee report the bill favorably for passage. I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.