



## **COFFEY COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

***M. Wayne Blackbourn, P.E. & L.S.  
County Engineer***

### TESTIMONY

TO: The Honorable Steve Huebert, Chair  
And Members of the House Local Government Committee

FROM: Wayne Blackbourn, P.E. & P.L.S., Coffey County Engineer  
And Jeff Beyer, Landfill Supervisor

RE: HB 2072 – Municipalities; solid waste collection; limitations.

DATE: February 12, 2013  
1:30 p.m. Room 281N  
State of Kansas, House Committee on Local Government

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Committee on Local Government:

Wayne Blackbourn, Coffey County Engineer and Jeff Beyer, Landfill Supervisor we appreciate the opportunity today to present remarks on behalf of Coffey County. Coffey County is opposed to the proposed legislation of HB 2072 as to the current form. The action requested in HB 2072 will eliminate the ability of the governing body to provide service outside of its incorporated limits.

On October 9, 1991, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) established new minimum federal criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills (MSWLF), commonly referred to as Subtitle D Landfills. The planning and direct implementation of the solid waste programs is regulated by the State of Kansas, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

With the new federal criteria for landfills to upgrade with a composite liner, monitoring wells (Groundwater), Leachate collection and treatment systems the required Engineering and Construction cost closed several county landfills throughout the state. The investment of several millions of dollars in the Coffey County landfill as a Regional Landfill for Coffey County and surrounding counties is a continued commitment from Coffey County to provide a service of environmentally safe service to the citizens of Coffey County and our neighbors in our rural region. The investments made are for long term commitments within the region for a proven best practice of operation as a Regional landfill.

HB 2072 – Municipalities; solid waste collection; limitations.

The action requested in HB 2072 will limit the tonnage of waste and recycling collection within the incorporated limits of the county. This action will increase cost of operation with decrease rate of disposal, thus, requiring an increase tipping fee charge to the citizens of Coffey County. The surrounding counties will incur additional cost in tonnage fees and additional capital improvement for providing transfer stations and longer hauls of waste to private landfills, NOT PART of the region. The recycling program to reduce, reuse, and recycle will be eliminated, scraped and nonexistent in private landfills as collected from this region!

The current providers in the state for Subtitle D Landfills are limited to 8-County Landfills, 8-Private Landfills and 2-City Landfills. Reducing the role of the governing body with the limited number of Landfills for 105 Counties to only provide services within the incorporated limits will only provide a single source of waste management. Limited competition of the free market enterprise of waste management will only increase cost and reduce services provided to the citizens of the Coffey County and the surrounding region.

In closing, the free market competition of fees would only be available when choices of service are available to the people of this great State of Kansas that allow low taxes and local service to our residents.

Jeff and I respectfully submit these comments on behalf of Coffey County and will gladly stand for questions.

M. Wayne Blackbourn, P.E. & L.S.  
Coffey County Engineer

Jeff Beyer, Landfill Supervisor

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