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House Local Government Committee:

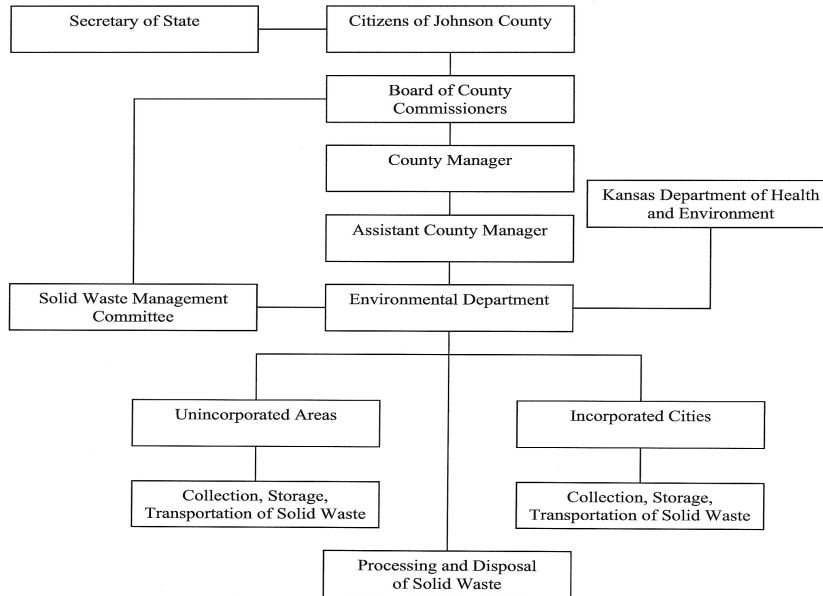
This is testimony in support of HB 2074, and in support for your consideration in amending the bill to make it retroactive. Though the intent of Kansas waste statutes are to protect Kansas citizens by localizing control over waste issues at the county level, in the case of waste plan regulations imposed by Johnson County Government effective, 1/1/2012, that intent has been subverted. In multiple ways these regulations have made solid waste an expensive nuisance. Unfortunately, as a longtime resident of Johnson County, I have found no other option to correcting this situation than in asking your help through changes at the state level.

I have previously documented information available to you concerning the Johnson County regulations and how they were erroneously sold to county citizens as protecting us, when all evidence shows they do the opposite. There is more information available documenting how and why these regulations are harmful to citizens of Johnson as well as other counties and I will gladly discuss those with you.

But, all the data, facts, and evidence are useless without being aware of the larger more critical problem; our diminishment in importance as individual citizens.

I recently noticed this organizational hierarchy chart in the Johnson County Solid Waste Management Plan 2007; the one we're working under now with revisions.

Figure 1-4
Johnson County Organization Chart
Current Solid Waste Management Functions



Source: Johnson County Environmental Department

Note at the top are **Citizens of Johnson County**, and on an equal plain is Secretary of State. Below that are Board of County Commissioners, Solid Waste Management Committee, Environmental Department, etc. At the very **bottom** is Processing and Disposal of Solid Waste. Somehow, things have gotten inverted, and the 540,000 individual Citizens of Johnson County are now at the bottom of the pile. We are being buried by the quest for more stakeholder group involvement, while individually we are given little regard.

To rectify this situation and stop potential problems statewide I ask that you pass this bill HB 2074 with an amendment making it retroactive.