

*PUBLIC POLICY STATEMENT*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RE: HB 2185 – An act concerning governmental organization;  
relating to consolidation.

**February 19, 2013**  
**Topeka, Kansas**

**Testimony provided by:**  
**Brad Harrelson**  
**Assistant Director**  
**KFB Governmental Relations**

---

Chairman Huebert and members of the House Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on HB 2185 which would facilitate city and county consolidation by removing the requirement for legislative approval and establish a mechanism for a study commission and procedure for approval of a consolidation plan.

Kansas Farm Bureau is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 40,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations. Our members are actively involved in their local communities as tax payers, city council and county commission members, small business owners, and residents of both cities and unincorporated areas.

As you know city and county consolidation is a topic which is not new to the statehouse or to this committee. Neither is the opposition of Kansas Farm Bureau to many of the concepts that have been brought forward thus far. However, we are pleased to offer our qualified support for the measure before you today.

Our member-adopted policy is committed to the concept of local control; that those decisions of government which impact residents on a daily basis are best made by local elected officials and ultimately by voters in local elections. For that reason we strongly support the dual-majority requirement in this bill as a mechanism to ensure that proposals that may present more economical options for the delivery of local government functions will do so fairly and without a detrimental impact on any specific sub-set of residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to share the policy of our members. We stand ready to assist as you and discuss this important topic.