



House Taxation Committee
Testimony on House Bill 2047
City of Derby
January 29, 2013

My name is Scott Schneider, I am representing the City of Derby and we are taking a neutral position on HB 2047. Normally a neutral position doesn't merit oral testimony, but I wanted to take the time to publically thank Rep. Brunk and Howell for their efforts to take our thoughts and opinions into consideration.

In our conversations with Rep. Brunk and Howell, the only point we had concerns with was placing additional language which would create a hard spending and tax lid. They agreed that was not their intent and would oppose any such move.

Derby is a city of more than 22,000 residents who attend community events together, talk at the coffee shops and are genuinely concerned with their obligations of self-governance.

We view HB 2047 as transparency legislation aimed at providing the public additional information about the mechanics of the local budget process. While we believe our citizens are as informed as they choose to be, if there is a better approach, we are willing to explore the options.

As we read the language in its entirety, after the mill levy adjustment or "true-up" in paragraph (b), paragraph (c) then allows for local flexibility to raise and lower taxes if approved by the elected city council. This language is critical to both the budgeting process and the concept of supporting local governance.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our thoughts.