

## ATCHISON COUNTY

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**To:** Senate Committee Ethics, Elections, and Local Government

**From:** Mike Bodenhausen – 2<sup>nd</sup> District County Commissioner | Atchison County Commissioner

**Date:** February 11, 2013

**Re:** Testimony in Opposition to SB 109

My name is Mike Bodenhausen, and I am a County Commissioner representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> District in Atchison County. I was appointed in December of 2011 to fill out the remaining year of a four-year term. In November of 2012, I was elected for a full 4 year term.

I have been a lifelong resident of Atchison County and have always tried to do as much community service as possible because Atchison County has been good to me. I have served on the local school board, church boards, committees, and other community service groups. When I decided to seek this position, again I viewed it as community service. In a very short time I learned that I needed some help. I started attending as many KAC conferences as I could in an attempt to learn and thus be a better public servant. Their specific seminar topics have been extremely helpful in making me a better County Commissioner.

I also work for the Kansas Dairy Association. It is impossible for our dairymen to stay on top of issues at the Statehouse by being in attendance every day, so we depend on someone to monitor and update us on issues that might impact our industry. KAC offers my fellow County Commissioners and myself the same kind of service. Their presence at the Statehouse allows County Commissioners to spend more time dealing with the business within their county.

Not only does KAC provide education and advice to all counties, they also provide individual help to each County. Recently we asked KAC to help our county sponsor a county-wide summit. The purpose was to discuss ways in which the county and the five city governments could work together to make Atchison County a better place to live and do business in. Nathan Eberline moderated our summit and led us through this very helpful process. Everyone that attended felt it was very worthwhile and requested that it be done more often.

In closing, I feel that the passing of SB 109 will not serve our citizen's best interests. We expect the passage of state laws to be well thought out, which includes being well educated and informed. Passage of SB 109 would truly weaken this part of the process. I feel that if this is truly an issue, the local citizens can address it through the election process. I strongly encourage the committee to oppose SB 109.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Bodenhausen

Atchison County Commissioner