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HB 2237 Testimony

House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

March 16, 2015

By: Jason A. Gage on behalf of the Salina City Commission

Request

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the City of Salina's position on HB 2237. While I am not able to attend the committee hearing, I am very appreciative of your time to consider this written testimony. With that said, I respectfully request that you support the passage of HB 2237.

Bill Summary

Our understanding is that this bill would allow an Internet website, lieu of utilizing a local newspaper and with certain qualifying factors, to be the official publication source for the required publication of ordinances, resolutions, legal public notices and advertisements.

Bill Advantages

A summary of the bill's major advantages are as follows:

- Continued Transparency and Enhanced Access. With the popularity of Internet news, columns, blogs, web pages, etc., it is clear that electronic means of communication is surpassing the old fashion hardcopy approach employed by newspapers and magazines. We believe that effective use of this technology will preserve the legislative transparency required by our citizenry and actually improve access to important local government information by increasing the convenience of accessibility to all citizens.
- Cost Savings. Legal publication costs for the City of Salina range from \$35,000 to \$50,000 per year. The ability to utilize Internet technology for such publications will significantly reduce costs to our local taxpayers. We also believe the cost to our

citizenry will be decreased by not requiring them to subscribe to hardcopy newspaper sources.

- Publication Logistics. We believe that the logistical effort to actually prepare and format required public notices for publication will be simplified if electronic publication is allowed; thus, allowing us to employ an internal, operational efficiency.

Requested Action

The City of Salina believes that HB 2237 will not only decrease taxpayer costs of public notice publication, but actually increase information access and transparency. As a result, we respectfully request that you support HB 2237.

Thank you for considering our legislative request!