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P r i n t e r s & P u b l i s h e r s

March 16, 2015

To: Rep. Mark Hutton, Chairman
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

From: Clarke Davis, Valley Falls Vindicator

RE: House Bill No. 2237

Dear Sir:

I'm an old-timer in the publishing business with over 50 years on the job. We own two weekly newspapers in Jefferson County serving the county, eight incorporated cities, six school districts, 12 townships, and a whole lot of other taxing units from cemeteries and watersheds to housing subdivisions around a federal lake.

Our newspapers carry the "legal" designation and they are the one place the public can turn to to learn what their elected representatives are doing. Besides the required legal notification itself, anything of significance usually winds up as a headline to further inform residents.

I don't know what the future holds for the Internet but I do know at this stage most small towns and most other taxing districts are ill equipped to use it to any great advantage. I can't imagine a taxpayer going to a computer to check into every tax district they live in to see what might be before the governing bodies.

The loss of revenue to the newspapers would also have a crippling effect on some to continue to be the communication link for the people in their community.

There are a number of other talking points on this issue, but rather than repeat many that you have already been informed about, I'd simply ask you to listen to our representatives with the Kansas Press Association as you form your opinions on this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Clarke Davis