

March 16, 2015

To: Rep. Mark Hutton, chairman, Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

From: Sue Drennan, resident of Galena, Kansas

Re: HB 2237

It is strange that I would be writing legislators twice within a couple of months, but two issues have arisen that I feel strongly about. The first was the island annexation issue.

The issue I am addressing in this letter is HB2237. This is a bill that changes the way public notices are presented from a local newspaper to the Internet. I am writing this with no connections to any newspaper other than a reader. But I do feel strongly that the newspaper should remain the main means of publication.

I realize that our society is transitioning into a "plugged in" society and in time the internet may be the source of all information. But at this point in time you have citizens in many camps: some are completely comfortable with getting every bit of information via computer or smart phone, some who have begun using these modes more but still love to read their newspapers and hold a real book in their hands, and some who have no earthly idea how to even turn on a computer, along with those who cannot afford that luxury.

Notifications should be available to ALL citizens in my opinion. In another twenty years when my children are my age this may be a very plausible proposition.....but we are not there yet.

My second reason for opposing this bill is the fact that I would sorely miss my little local newspaper. I care about local news that would not be covered anywhere else. Recent events in Cherokee County would not have been adequately covered if it had not been for local papers.

And as we all know, it is getting increasingly difficult for newspapers to stay in business. The publication of public notices brings in money to help them keep the lights on....and keeping the lights on is a good thing!

Please consider these points and do not support HB2237. Thank you for your time and attention.

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