

Chairman Pauls and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 2380 as proposed. As I have had the pleasure to serve the state of Kansas as Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Appointments, it has afforded me the opportunity to review and assess ways to make our process more effective for those we serve. It is for that reason I support HB 2380. Moving the appointing authority from the Governor to those who are directly impacted by these regional services seems to be a more effective approach to governance.

The state has seven regional library systems that are taxing authorities as created by statute. As our team has worked to fill the gubernatorial vacancies with new members for each county represented in the specified regional library system, it has been quite noticeable that county residents are not aware that a regional library system exists in their area or that they are being taxed to maintain one. With that being the case, it seems advantageous that by changing the appointing authority to local county officials the regional library systems can provide better education on the services they provide in their area. With local officials being involved with the appointing process, it also provides greater accountability of the tax dollars being used in those regions. As I have interviewed several applicants who are interested in reappointment, most have a deep commitment and volunteer at their local library, but they have no knowledge of their taxing authority role.

By changing the appointing authority to local county officials, I believe there are several advantages to Kansas tax payers and they are as follows: greater education on the services provided by regional library systems, stronger accountability with tax dollars being levied, and a greater breadth of appointment diversity than has been the case prior to our arrival.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our support for HB 2380.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Borchers
Deputy Chief of Staff