



TESTIMONY

HB 2296

Cities and counties; public building commissions; revenue bonds.

Comments presented to the House Local Government Committee

OPPOSITION

**City of Topeka
February 24, 2015**

Chairman Huebert and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Topeka, we would respectfully ask this Committee not to advance HB 2296 to the floor.

As proposed, HB 2296 would require a city or county public building commission to submit any project to a public vote regardless of community opinion or lack of objection. Current law allows for a protect petition with a 5% signature requirement of voters in the county before the issuance of any revenue bonds related to the public building commission project, which is relatively low, yet reasonable standard.

The City of Topeka has a public building commission, which was reestablished in 1998 for the purposes of financing public buildings, by both state and local government entities. The Commission was most recently involved with the successful development of the KBI Crime Lab on the Washburn University campus in partnership with the State of Kansas, Washburn and the Topeka Public Building Commission, which is currently under construction.

HB 2296 seems to be based upon a local issue unrelated to the overall use of the statute and we believe such matters should be addressed at the local level.

On behalf of the City of Topeka, we would reiterate our opposition to HB 2296.

Thank you.

Whitney Damron

For more information on the Topeka Public Building Commission, please refer to:

https://topeka.org/AdvisoryBoards/Topeka_Public_Building_Commission.shtml