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10 February 2015

Dear Ms. Connor and Senate of Ethics and Elections Committee,

On behalf of the City of Wakefield, Kansas, I fervently ask that you reject Senate Bill 171.

The City of Wakefield's population is predominantly Federal Service Employees and Active Duty Military Service Members. Currently two of our five City Council members, in addition to me as Mayor, are Federal employees. The Federal Hatch Act and Department of Defense directives prohibit Federal Employees and Active Duty Service Members from running in a partisan election and would greatly decrease the number of Wakefield residents who could run for office. These are some of our most eligible and active public servants.

Senate Bill 171 would also decrease the importance of our local elections and current issues in our city. I would request that you instead consider an all-mail ballot election. This would save tax dollars and increase voting without worry of Kansas inclement weather in the spring elections.

I thank you for your consideration and again promote that it is in the best interest of our great state to reject this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah S. Brown".

Deborah S. Brown
Mayor
Wakefield, KS 67487
785-307-2527