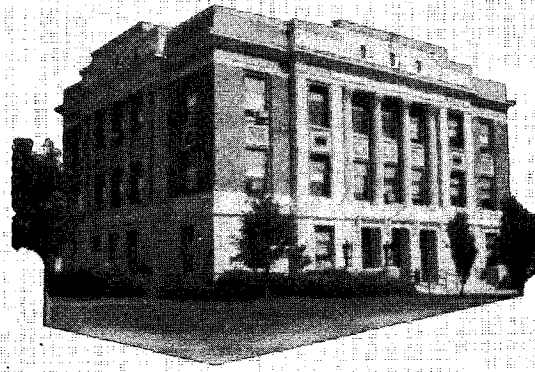


NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS



NORTON, KANSAS

February 9, 2015

Chairman Ostmeyer,

I am writing to express our concern in Norton County with Senate Bill 98. First, Norton County has a written policy with request for Kansas Open records. This policy was adopted several years ago and has been very effective for both the county and those requesting open records. We strongly believe that this is a local issue and one that the local County Government should Administer.

The second item with Senate Bill 98 is the specific language in section e, lines 25 through 27 on page 5 of the bill. This is the section that would add the wording requiring the Secretary of State to determine the "minimum requirement" for formatting county minutes. Norton County purchased a program a couple years ago for the purpose of recording county minutes. This program works well for us, however may not be considered an effective tool for several other counties. Norton County provides minutes to newspapers, radio stations and private citizens with no complaints. Again, we feel this is a local decision and should remain that way. We also have concern with the language believing this would include our hospital board, nursing home board, economic development board and the airport board. The listed entities are all county appointed.

Thank you for allowing Norton County to provide testimony on Senate Bill 98 and we would ask for your consideration to leave open record fees and county minute recordings to the local government.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Wyatt

Norton County Clerk and Election Official

