



JOHNSON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 2
19495 Metcalf Avenue
Stilwell, KS 66085
www.jcfd2.org



February 17, 2016

The Honorable Ralph Ostmeyer, Chairman
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Statehouse, Room 144 South
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Re: House Bill 2438

Dear Senator Ostmeyer:

My name is James B. Francis. I am the Fire Chief of Johnson County Fire District No. 2. I am writing you today to voice my support for House Bill 2438.

History

Johnson County Fire District No. 2 protects approximately 150 square miles in Johnson and Miami County. Our Fire District provides services to the City of Spring Hill. Part of the City is located within the boundaries of the Fire District and the remainder is served by a contractual agreement between the City and the Fire District.

Problem

The taxing rate for fire protection in the city's contract area is not the same taxing rate as those citizens located within the Fire District.

Corrective Action

House Bill 2438 would allow the governing body of the City of Spring Hill to authorize that portion of the city to be included into the Fire District. The Board of County Commission would also need to approve this action before the territory could become part of the Fire District. If passed by both the city and the county, the Fire District's tax levy would be assessed to all residents equally. Neighbors would be paying the same tax rate for the same service.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James B. Francis". The signature is written in a cursive style.

James B. Francis, Fire Chief