



Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties
To the Senate Utilities Committee
SB 401

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 401. I would first like to express my appreciation to the telecommunication providers for contacting the Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities, along with other local governmental units, to discuss this legislative initiative before this hearing. While we may not agree on this legislation, I sincerely appreciate the collegiality of the parties on this issue.

I am still educating myself on cell tower siting and the mechanics of this legislation; however, I will raise general concerns about loss of local control under this bill. I will leave it to those within cities and counties who have real experience on these issues to articulate our specific concerns. Our overall concern is an ability to address our constituents' concerns with placement and regulation of cell towers and other equipment. When citizens are upset about the aesthetics of their neighborhood, they call their city commissioner or county commissioner and expect us to address their concerns.

I look forward to working with the other parties to reach compromise on this legislation. Thank you for your time.

Melissa Wangemann, General Counsel

SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2-9-16

ATTACHMENT # 6