

THE CITY OF PRAIRIE VILLAGE
STAR OF KANSAS

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 401 – Telecommunications and wireless communications equipment

To: Honorable Chairman Senator Robert Olson
Members of the Senate Committee on Utilities

From: Nolan Sunderman, Assistant to the City Administrator

Date: February 5, 2016

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to Senate Bill 401 - telecommunications and wireless communications equipment.

The City of Prairie Village is opposed to Senate Bill 401 for many reasons. The City of Prairie Village is a residential community of over 20,000 residents located in a densely populated area. The proposed legislation will limit the city's ability to encourage collocation of wireless facilities. Residents have voiced many concerns with the location and appearance of these facilities particularly in residential areas.

The proposed legislation would also limit the ability to recover costs associated with necessary reviews. It would also mandate specific terms of lease agreements and require a team of three appraisers should the lease rate require negotiation. Our residents have demanded proper screening and landscaping around these facilities. The proposed legislation would limit that ability.

The City does agree that wireless telecommunication facilities and capabilities are necessary to for citizens to communicate. However, the City of Prairie Village supports local control. The proposed legislation is an attack on the ability for the locally-elected officials to educate, negotiate, and take public input on changes to the wireless telecommunication facilities. For these reasons, the City of Prairie Village is opposed to Senate Bill 401.

SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2-9-16

ATTACHMENT # 17