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March 23, 2017

To: House Committee on Local Government

From: The City of McLouth, McLouth, KS

Subject: HB 2404

House Committee on Local Government:

The City of McLouth would like to see HB2404 pass. Last year we were forced to demolish a very old "nursing home" that was, at one time, a hotel. The hotel was said to have been used by some very important people form history. The reason that we needed to demolish it was due to the long process of obtaining control of the property.

The owner was elderly and then passed. Her roommate kept he bills paid but was unable to do any keep up either. Years later he too passed. The residence housed some very valuable articles that were left by wonderful people. The taxes hadn't been paid, the structure was failing and we had no way of preventing the structure from deteriorating. It became a danger to the community and then it was broken in to. All of the valuables were taken. Eventually the police department had to board up the windows and tape off the area. After many years of trying to do something with the "hotel/nursing home" we (the city) had to proceed with the demolition. It was too far gone to save. The city had to finance the demolition and now has a lien against the property. It is 3 large lots with nothing on it except a large lien. We have since had to seed and maintain the property.

If HB2404 passes, we would be able to work with these properties before they are beyond repair.

Currently we have a small house that has been sitting for over 7 years. There have been delays with tax sales, delays on on everything. It sits there, truck in the front yard, waiting for someone or something to care for it. Give the cities a chance to clean up these places and make our cities a great place to live.

Thank you,

Kim Everley

Kim Everley, CMC
City Administrator/Clerk
City of McLouth