

## City of McPherson

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January 19, 2018

To: House Local Government Committee

From: Thomas A. Brown, Mayor, City of McPherson  
Nick Gregory, City Administrator, City of McPherson

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of Abandoned Property Legislation

House Local Government Committee:

The City of McPherson would like to express their support for proposed legislation that improves the tools available for cities in Kansas to address the ever increasing problem with blighted abandoned properties in our communities and neighborhoods.

Many of the challenges these structures most often pose for the community is that owners are either absentee landowners or properties owners unwilling to invest in these structures so they comply with even minimal habitation standards. Current procedures available to cities in Kansas to deem a house abandoned are tedious and time consuming, expensive.

In McPherson we have number of residential and commercial structures that have set abandoned for longer than 5 years. We have at least one dozen abandoned properties that are extremely difficult to address. The longer these structures go abandoned the larger the chance that structures will reach a condition where the only option will be demolition. The pattern in the McPherson Community shows other structures near these abandoned structures continue to decline from a condition and monetary value standpoint. We believe this proposed legislation will allow communities like McPherson to address these problems before they have a substantial long-term negative impacts on our citizens and neighborhoods.

We hope that between this passing legislation couple with other tools like Community Development Block Grant Housing Grants, a city land bank, and other local housing incentives continue to insure that our neighbors and housing values stay at level that continues to encourage citizens to live and flourish in our community neighborhoods.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas A. Brown  
Mayor

Nick Gregory  
City Administrator

Mayor

*Thomas A. Brown*

Commissioner of Public Facilities

*Robert D. Moore*

Commissioner of Streets & Utilities

*Larry E. Wiens*