

Date: February 18, 2020
To: Chairman Tarwater and the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
From: Eudora City Commission
Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 2703

Dear Chairman Tarwater and the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development:

The Eudora City Commission strongly opposes HB 2703 and its intent to limit and curtail a community's ability to request and enforce certain unique, high standards for building materials in construction projects. This legislation is problematic for a number of reasons, including:

- a. As conversations about building materials and construction practices are inherently and unavoidably subject to market forces, the majority of cities are already at a disadvantage when attempting to maintain building standards expected by Kansas residents.
- b. As the State of Kansas is already struggling to attract businesses and residents to move to or stay within our borders, the possibility that cities will not be able to take an active role in creatively building desirable, attractive buildings and projects will only disadvantage the State more, as residents and businesses move to more unique, interesting places in other parts of the United States.
- c. A city's ability to negotiate and work with developers of residential and commercial buildings to create diverse and interesting architectural structures is a fundamental tool cities have to meet constituents' and Kansas citizens' desires to live in spaces with a unique sense of place.
- d. Cities are the unit of government closest to the people and actually do the work of code inspection and code enforcement. Tensions between builders or developers and building code adoption and enforcement are managed through the local government processes, which allow local elected officials to be responsive to the local market and local level of expectations. These conversations and decisions belong at the local level.

For these reasons, we urge you to consider the possible unfavorable repercussions of passage of HB 703 and we urge you to vote no on HB 2703.

Kind regards,



Tim Reazin, Mayor