

Date: February 15, 2019
To: Chairman Finch and the House Judiciary Committee
From: City of Eudora Planning Commission
Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 2219

Dear Chairman Finch and the House Judiciary Committee:

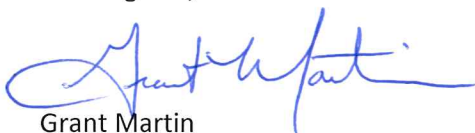
HB 2219 as currently proposed would create a significant hardship on the Eudora Planning Commission given our limited budget and currently-dedicated staff resources. As such, the City of Eudora Planning Commission strongly opposes HB 2219 and urges you to vote no on the bill.

The current method of recording written minutes of our public meetings has been sufficient in achieving our and the State's goals of transparency and good public management. We have received no concerns from the development community, businesses, residents, nor the media that would lead to changing the current provisions of the Kansas Open Meetings Act regarding transparency or access. The proposal in HB 2219 to make audio or video recordings at all of our meetings and then make them accessible to the public within 24 hours after such meetings would result in an unfunded mandate with no real benefit in our community as we have no groups nor persons asking for such meeting record. Currently, meeting minutes are only used by City staff and the Planning Commission to review past actions and the written form is and has been sufficient for our purposes. No requests from outside groups are typically received and so we see this requirement, if imposed, resulting in nothing more than a challenge to City staff in terms of fiscal cost burden and adequate retention issues resulting from such audio/visual records.

As such, given the facts that we see no demand for such records of our public Planning Commission meetings and that the Kansas Open Meetings Act as currently implemented is sufficient to achieving the objectives of transparency and responsiveness, this unfunded mandate from the State is unnecessary and will only result in an undue financial and staff burden that will result in little to no public benefit in our community.

Thank you for considering the position of the City of Eudora Planning Commission and for your thoughtful review of HB 2219 concerning the Kansas Open Meetings Act. We urge you to vote no on HB 2219.

Kind regards,



Grant Martin
Eudora Planning Commission, Chair