



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

Chairman Finch and the House Judiciary Committee,

On behalf of the Eudora Convention and Visitors Bureau, I am writing to voice our strong opposition to HB 2219, a mandate requiring bodies subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to make audio or visual recordings of their meetings available to the public within twenty-four hours of the meeting. As the Convention and Visitors Bureau of a small community, we work diligently to inspire visitors from the surrounding region to visit, stay, play and dine in Eudora. We achieve this mission through event promotions, community marketing efforts, and a robust social media presence. Due to the wide range of our activities, gatherings of the Convention and Visitors Bureau take many different forms, including community events and meetings at local businesses and attractions. Attempting to capture all of these meetings using visual or audio technology is logistically infeasible, and would furthermore unnaturally disrupt the flow of the event and hinder its intended purpose.

The Convention & Visitors Bureau maintains an interactive website and a strong social media presence, and proactively advertises and invites community members to all meetings and events. We feel confident that our robust communications efforts establish sufficient transparency and have not received any questions or concerns from the public or members of the media about quality of these efforts.

Additionally, the Convention and Visitors Bureau is made up entirely of community volunteers and operates on a limited budget. The organization does not own a video or audio recording device and lacks the volunteer capacity to arrange for the capturing and uploading of visual or audio recordings, especially within such a quick turnaround time. Simply put, the organization does not possess—and does not anticipate possessing—the financial or physical resources needed to comply with the proposed mandate of HB 2219. If passed, HB 2219 will overly burden our organization and threaten our ability to continue to highlight and advocate for all our community has to offer.

For the reasons outlined above, we ask that you consider the potential negative repercussions of the passage of HB 2219 and the negative effects it could have on small communities and small organizations such as ours. Thank you for considering this testimony and for your thoughtful review of HB 2219 concerning the Kansas Open Meetings Act. We urge you to vote no on HB 2219.

Sincerely,

Ellis Bryant
President, Eudora Convention & Visitors Bureau