

City of McPherson

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February 8, 2020

City of McPherson Opposition Testimony for House Bill 2580 for February 12, 2020
Representative Kent Thompson, Committee on Local Government

Thank you Chairman for the opportunity to provide testimony to the House Committee on Local Government in opposition of House Bill 2580.

The City of McPherson is opposed to eliminating unilateral annexation proposed in House Bill 2580. Unilateral Annexation is a responsible process used by cities for an extended period of time. Cities need to be able to grow and expand their city limits in order to have a greater tax base. If these areas benefit from city services they should be responsible for sharing in the costs of these services through property taxes the same as their city neighbors.

There are safeguards within the current unilateral annexation statute designed to prevent abuse. The area is limited to 21 acres and limited to types of property. The city must extend its services to the proposed annexed area.

The City of McPherson has very few infill lots available. We are limited mostly on the south by flood plain issues; east and west have geographical issues. North is our only direction for growth. Growth will be necessary to provide workers for the many jobs being created by industrial recruitment. The Kansas Framework for Growth will support job growth in the future. The City of McPherson is already moving in this way. Job growth will require new neighborhoods. This growth will help stabilize property taxes.

As we grow our cities, we grow our State of Kansas. The Interstate 135 corridor from Wellington to Salina has great potential for population growth and expanding the tax base. Eliminating Unilateral Annexation will only hinder the progress in this area. We appreciate the tools the Department of Commerce and the Kansas Housing Corporation provides to keep moving forward. Please to not impede the already difficult growth process.

Respectfully,

Thomas A. Brown

Mayor

Thomas A. Brown

Commissioner of Public Facilities

Gary L. Mehl

Commissioner of Public Works

Larry E. Wiens