

City of McPherson

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January 18, 2020

City of McPherson Proponent Testimony for House Bill 2441 for January 22, 2020
Representative Steven C. Johnson, Taxation Committee Chairman

Thank you Chairman for the opportunity to provide testimony to the House Taxation Committee in support of HB 2441 on behalf of the City of McPherson

We have a deep commitment to promote local pride and in so doing to further “Kansas Proud” slogan. Kansas is the aggregate of the local communities across our State. It is important for these local communities to have the freedom of choice to support local museums. HB 2441 is important to allow each local community that desires to support the financial foundation of their local museum. This bill would give local communities the freedom to support their local museum via a local vote. It does not ask for any additional State funds.

A favorable vote as a local issue if HB2441 passes is very important in important in ways other than financial sustainability. The first important way is to promote local heritage. Promoting local heritage allows economic development and population growth. In McPherson, we have started to hold our high school reunions at our museum. The attendees are mainly younger adults. This is a group having achieved higher education goals and business experience. They are necessary to grow Kansas. Also, we have had several return to the agriculture base they knew through family farm experience. We desperately need these younger adults back in Kansas. Every year in McPherson, we have an opportunity to reacquaint them with local heritage and life opportunities awaiting them. HB 2441 is a very inexpensive and effective way to address this group annually.

Another important way is the local museum is a community resource for providing an orientation for new industrial and education employees each year to our community. We believe it is a critical opportunity to retain new people in our community and slow turnover. Our museum is dynamic by being more than simply exhibits. Our museum is a vibrant community resource.

It is our hope you will see the value of a local museum to a local community but a resource at an economical cost to be a tool to grow the State of Kansas and to help fulfill the Kansas Framework for Growth. We need your support to have a local option to achieve sustainability for this valuable resource.

Thank you for Chairman Johnson and this committee for allowing my testimony.

Thomas A. Brown, Mayor

Mayor
Thomas A. Brown

Commissioner of Public Facilities
Gary L. Mehl

Commissioner of Public Works
Larry E. Wiens