

To: House Local Government

From: Amanda L. Stanley, General Counsel

Date: February 3, 2021

RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 2178

We want to thank Chairman Thompson and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2178.

HB 2178 is extremely specific legislation dealing with one small city of about 900 people in Lyon County, the City of Americus. This legislation was originally introduced in 2020 as HB 2509. Unfortunately, after passing the House 122-3, the legislation died in the Senate when session abruptly ended due to COVID-19. The League was approached by the city in 2019 about how to deal with lots dedicated in the northeast section of the original town plat for a college and a park. Legally there is no way, other than legislation, to vacate these specific dedications. This has led to the land essentially being frozen in time. The city already has a park more centrally located as well as ball fields. With the proximity of Emporia State and K-State, it would be a poor utilization of taxpayer money to build an additional college.

The city would like to either sell the land and use the proceeds for the needs of the community or work to develop the land to put in much needed single-family dwellings that could help expand the tax base of the community. Neither of these options are even possible to explore unless the original dedication is vacated by the Legislature.

For these reasons, the League asks this Committee recommend HB 2178 be passed out favorably for passage to the full House for its consideration.