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Proponent Testimony - HB 2518
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Dear Representatives,

We are writing in support of HB 2518 currently pending in the House. You may not know that Benefit Districts have unfairly assessed Olathe homeowners, sometimes for as much as \$15,000, and without any notice. These benefit districts only benefit developers; homeowners have no say in the creation and application of these onerous levies.

Recently the city of Olathe developed a policy, rescindable at any time, requiring that 100% of owners (with lots less than 3 acres) must sign any petition for a benefit district. The next city council, the next election, could change this policy, leaving homeowners, both buyers and current residents, open to the harsh surprise of exorbitant financial costs.

As HB 2518 currently reads, it will eliminate “the ability of property owners of one-half or more of an area proposed to be in an improvement district to petition to form such district; requiring disclosure in real estate contracts of any special assessments due”. This means *stricter rules* for developers and, importantly, disclosure in the real estate contracts. Failure to adhere to the disclosure statement “shall render the contract voidable by the buyer”

Although clearly this bill does not completely solve the problem of benefit districts, we think this will be a huge step to protect homeowners. Please don't leave us out here to be vulnerable to large, unexpected bills that we never agreed to

Thank you,

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