

January 22, 2024

HB2446

Opponent  
Kimberly Williams

Dear Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kimberly Williams, and I am writing to express my profound concerns regarding House Bill 2446 (HB2446), which is currently under consideration. My opposition stems from multiple perspectives that highlight the potential harm this bill poses to the constitutional rights of local governments, environmental sustainability, and public health.

Firstly, as a resident of the State of Kansas, I believe in upholding the principles outlined in our constitution. HB2446, in its dangerously broad scope, seeks to prohibit cities and counties from exercising their home rule authority under the Kansas Constitution. This encroachment on local governance contradicts the constitutional empowerment of cities to determine their local affairs, as stated in Article 12, Section 5. The bill would severely impede the ability of local elected officials to make decisions that align with the best interests of their communities, obstructing their autonomy and self-governance.

Secondly, the bill's focus on preventing municipalities from regulating single-use plastics raises significant environmental concerns. Single-use plastic production contributes to the climate crisis through increased CO2 production and exposes the public to toxic chemicals. The U.S. plastics industry alone is responsible for 232 million tons of CO2 emissions annually, equivalent to emissions from 116 coal-fired power plants. Moreover, as stated by Dr. Nancy Muma, the toxic additives in plastics, such as hexavalent chromium and PFAS, pose severe health risks, impacting our hormones and reproductive systems. Microplastics resulting from plastic breakdown further accumulate in our bodies, particularly affecting vulnerable populations like children and developing unborn children.

Thirdly, as highlighted by the Sierra Club's letter of opposition, the global environmental impact of plastics is undeniable. Our current reliance on disposable plastics is unsustainable, contributing to climate change, polluting waterways, and overwhelming waste management systems. The Sierra Club advocates for minimizing single-use plastics and supports measures promoting waste reduction, product reuse, recycling, and composting. Unfortunately, HB2446 obstructs local efforts to address the growing waste problem, encourages wastefulness, and fails to abate plastics littering our landscapes and waterways.

In conclusion, I implore you to consider the constitutional implications, the public health risks, and environmental consequences associated with HB2446. Please vote against this bill, aligning your decision with the principles of self-governance, environmental responsibility, and public well-being.

Thank you for your attention to these critical matters, and I trust that you will VOTE NO, a decision that reflects the best interests of my community and the State of Kansas.

Sincerely,

*Kimberly Williams*

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