

**Testimony by Charlie Hunt with the Johnson County Department of Health & Environment (JCDHE) to
Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Written Opponent for HB 2446 – January 30, 2024**

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2446 which prohibits cities and counties from regulating plastic and other containers designed for the consumption, transportation or protection of merchandise, food or beverages. JCDHE's mission is to promote and protect the health and environment for all who live, work and play in Johnson County.

Johnson County values home rule authority and the ability for local elected officials to conduct the business of their jurisdiction in a manner that best reflects the desires of their constituents for the maximum benefit to that community. As a health department, we have several concerns with this bill:

- It removes the ability for us to consider restrictions on one-time use plastics that are contributing both to littering issues throughout the county but also accelerating the filling of our landfill.
- It removes the ability to consider the use of fees to encourage shifting to more environmentally friendly alternatives for one-time use containers.
- It removes the ability for us to consider regulations on glass containers, aside from on government property, which could raise potential safety concerns.

Local governments consist of elected officials. These officials weigh the advice of industry, experts, and citizens in making decisions to best serve all of those who live, work, or play in a community. HB 2446 flies in the face of home rule authority and would result in a state mandate trampling on the ability for Johnson County to govern its own affairs, in this case specifically on an area of environmental concern.

As such, JCDHE asks that the committee not recommend HB 2446 favorably for passage.

Sincerely,



Charlie Hunt, Director
Johnson County Department of Health & Environment

