



February 12, 2024

TO: Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs
FROM: City of Olathe, Tim Danneberg, Director of External Affairs
SUBJECT: Opposition to SB 373

Chairman Thompson and Honorable Committee Members,

The City of Olathe stands in opposition to SB 373.

Local governments have a fundamental role in ensuring the voice of local taxpayers is not ignored. It is also imperative the Kansas Legislature can consider all sides of issues impacting local taxpayers. As you know, issues are complicated, and relying solely on information from non-city lobbyists can lead to uninformed decisions with unintended consequences that can negatively impact local taxpayers.

For instance, local taxpayers pay to maintain and at times acquire right of way which is essential for them having access to critical utilities and internet services. If their perspective is not represented for Legislative consideration, it can have significant impact.

This bill is the 373rd bill coming before just the Senate side. It is impractical and irresponsible to think that legislation could be effectively monitored without a presence in the Statehouse. Navigating the legislative process is complicated and complex making very it difficult for local government to educate legislators on behalf of their taxpaying constituents.

Unlike other lobbyists, local government lobbyists cannot engage in campaign related activities including making campaign donations. However, they serve the key function of simply providing information for legislators to consider in their decision making.

As such, the City of Olathe strongly opposes SB 373.