



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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January 19, 2012

The Honorable Roger Reitz, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Local Government  
Capitol Building, Rm. 159-S  
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: S.B. 207

Dear Chairman Reitz and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Riley County Commissioners, I would like to offer my support of S.B. 207.

Riley County, and other Kansas counties, need S.B. 207. It is no more than a common sense measure allowing all Kansas counties to accept credit card payment for county services. Current law allows only cities, the state of Kansas and its agencies and state universities that privilege.

Without S.B. 207, Riley County cannot accept credit card payments from those wishing to pay their sewer and water benefit district charges "on line," unless the County pays the credit card company's "convenience fee" assessed for each such charge. That is because without S.B. 207 current law forbids Riley County from requiring the citizen making the payment to also pay that "convenience fee."

Quite simply, it is unfair to prevent Kansas counties from "passing along" that "convenience fee" to the citizen who wants to make a payment of any county service on line. There is no reason to general county taxpayer should absorb that convenience fee, and these days consumers are used to, even expect, to pay such an additional small charge in order to pay for any service by credit card. The fact that all Kansas cities and the state of Kansas have this ability already, and have exercised it for some time without incident, suggests there is no good reason to leave a different rule in place for Kansas counties.

Riley County would appreciate this committee's support of S.B. 207.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alvan D. Johnson".

Alvan D. Johnson, Chairman

cc: Dave Lewis, Member  
Karen McCulloh, Member