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TESTIMONY

12 February 2012

By: Charlie Sedlock, Division Manager
Hamm Waste Services, Perry, KS

Regarding: HB 2072

Before: House Committee on Local Government

Good Afternoon Mr. Chairman Huebert and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlie Sedlock, Division Manager for Hamm Waste Services in Perry, KS. I am happy to appear before you today in support of HB 2072 and I commend you for holding this hearing today on an important measure.

The purpose of HB 2072 is to provide a clear policy regarding the appropriate roles of the private and public sector in Kansas and what steps the public sector should take before entering the private marketplace. My company and associates work diligently to provide waste disposal services for 16 Kansas counties and hundreds of thousands of Kansas residents. We believe that the system of free enterprise and fair competition has served Kansas well and produced environmentally sound and competitive waste services for Kansans.

However, in recent years, some public sector entities have sought to sell or market their waste services, especially landfill and disposal services, to other units of government well outside their own political subdivision. Generally, this is done, at least outwardly to save the taxpayer money, but usually the activity ends up costing the taxpayer more as it ultimately reduces competition in the marketplace.

Unfair competition from the tax-supported public sector has a negative impact on our company and our employees as the loss of current customers and business leads to higher operating costs and ultimately higher prices to our other clients, which are primarily other cities and counties. We compete with other private sector landfills everyday and are proud to bring fierce competition to that arena. However, unfair competition from tax-supported public sector facilities creates an uneven playing field that ultimately does not serve Kansans. Passage of HB 2072 would level the playing field for cities and counties who offer their services in a marketplace already served by the private sector.

We ask that you put some reasonable limits on government units today by recommending HB 2072 favorable for passage for the following reasons:

1. It restores the traditional balance between the public and private sector.
2. It provides a clear policy statement regarding governmental participation in the private sector.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I will be happy to respond to any questions you may have at this time.