

February 8, 2013

State of Kansas, House Local Govt Committee
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: House Bill 2072: New Solid Waste Regulations

Dear Committee Members:

This letter is in regards to the above referenced Bill concerning Solid Waste collection and disposal that is scheduled for a hearing Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 1:30 PM in Room 281-N . As executive manager of the Allen County, Kansas Landfill and as a citizen of the state of Kansas, I would like to convey to you our strong opposition to this Bill. This regressive legislation would result in restricted inter-jurisdictional commerce and thus, undue regulation on our free market system.

We have worked hard at Allen County and have invested millions of dollars in our Landfill to provide an efficient, low cost solid waste disposal solution for our citizens and outside customers. Because of these efforts, our landfill currently has approximately 80 years of capacity and is an environmentally sound and economically beneficial operation for all stakeholders. With our current and projected disposal tonnages, we are able to keep fees low and fund our operations and environmental programs at an optimal level. If the proposed regulations are enacted, our tonnages (along with revenues) would fall and we would be left with a large, oversized landfill to maintain - operations costs would remain high. Lower revenues with high costs would likely lead to higher disposal fees for customers or possibly even higher taxes on our citizens.

The proposed legislation would create an unfair advantage for entities across the state, mostly in favor of "nongovernmental entities." These entities have not been successful (to date, in most regions) in capturing market share in the free market seemingly because they can't offer better value to customers. They are now, presumably, sponsoring this Bill to REQUIRE customers to use their services. Reducing the size and role of government is a popular and oftentimes appropriate pursuit in our State. However, we urge you to let the entities compete within the free market without creating an unjust advantage that would burden communities across Kansas. In our industry, competition across jurisdictional boundaries encourages innovation and efficient solid waste operations and keeps fees and taxes low for the citizens of Kansas.

We join the Kansas Sunflower Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America in opposition of these bills. Our request is for the Committee and House to reject this Bill in the interest of Kansas citizens and progressive policy.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

William King
Director of Public Works, Allen County, Kansas