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TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE
CONCERNING HB 2072

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Richard Boeckman, the Barton County Counselor and Administrator. I have prepared this written testimony with the assistance of the Barton County Solid Waste Manager, Mark Witt. I appreciate the opportunity to discuss Barton County's position relative to HB 2072.

Barton County does not derive a "profit" from operation of its landfill. Barton County does receive revenue from operation of the landfill. That revenue is used for two purposes. The first is to provide for the continued operation of the landfill. The second is to have adequate revenues to provide for post closure costs.

The Barton County Landfill began waste disposal operations in 1973, at the current site. Since that time, operational costs have been funded by tipping fees alone. In late fall 2001, Barton County's Subtitle D landfill was built and permitted to receive municipal solid waste. The Subtitle D landfill is approximately 43 acres in size and consists of 6 phases with each phase approximately 6-7 acres in size.

Each phase of the Subtitle D landfill costs approximately \$1,000,000 to construct, including engineering fees. All costs associated with construction, permitting, engineering and operation are paid through tipping fees paid by customers. The facility does not receive funding from County property taxes. Annual operating expenses range from \$900,000 to \$1,400,000.

The Barton County Landfill also consists of a permitted Construction & Demolition Landfill, Household Hazardous Waste Facility, bicycle recycling program, mattress recycling program, metal recycling program, tire disposal program, and E-waste (electronics) recycling program. All of these services/programs are funded through the tipping fees. Currently, the facility does not receive State of Kansas grants to off-set expenses for any waste diversion/recycling programs.

The Barton County Landfill employs 7 fulltime staff, including the Solid Waste Manager, 2 Scale Clerks, and 4 Heavy Equipment Operators. All staff are residents of Barton County.

Barton County believes the proposed legislation would adversely impact Barton County's recycling programs and household hazardous waste programs. The impact occurs because there would be additional cost to Barton County to transport such waste out of county. Additionally, Barton County does accept some out of county waste. Loss of the revenue associated with out of county waste would increase the cost to local taxpayers to operate the landfill. Additionally, Barton County estimates that private sector out of county users of the landfill would see additional costs because such users would be prohibited from using the Barton County Landfill. They would then have to transport their waste to locations significantly farther away than Barton County, thereby increasing their costs. The closest private landfills to Barton County are Plumb Thicket in Harper County, and Western Plains Regional in Finney County.

The Barton County recycling program would see increased costs by virtue of HB 2072. Barton County Landfill currently transports the following recyclables, which have been diverted from the waste stream, to facilities outside of Barton County.

- Mattresses transported to Hutchinson Correctional Facility
- Bicycles transported to Ellsworth Correctional Facility
- E-waste (electronics) transported to Rice County E-waste Facility

Under the proposed legislation, Barton County would no longer be able to transport these recyclables and thus would need to hire from the private sector transportation of said recyclables.

Barton County accepts household hazardous waste from Pawnee and western Ellsworth Counties. Barton County could not continue accepting such waste. This would result in increased costs to the citizens of Pawnee and Ellsworth Counties because they would have to transport such waste to private facilities at distances farther than the Barton County Landfill.

Barton County Landfill currently provides residential/commercial/industrial waste disposal for Pawnee County, parts of Ellsworth County, and other areas of adjoining counties. Special wastes requiring disposal approval from KDHE is accepted from all counties of Kansas.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment requires Barton County to anticipate and plan for post closure costs. These are costs to Barton County to close the landfill in an environmentally correct manner at the conclusion of the landfill's life.

According to 2012 closure and post-closure cost worksheets for the Barton County Landfill, the total amount of financial assurance required for the facility is \$4,528,578. This amount is what it is projected to cost to close all existing disposal sites, and to provide post-closure care for the next 30 years, according to State regulations. A break-down of this total for closure of existing disposal sites and post-closure care is as follows.

- \$1,942,148 estimated to close active municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill and construction & demolition landfill.
- \$2,764,857 estimated to provide 30 year post-closure care for entire facility.

In order to sustain annual revenue at current figures, Barton County would need to increase the current disposal fee per ton of waste, \$34.00 per ton, by \$8.00 to \$10.00 per ton.

Another option to offset the loss in revenue is to restructure how the Barton County Landfill is funded, providing such funding through property taxes.

As mentioned previously, Barton County would likely increase tipping fees to offset revenue losses by virtue of this bill. Barton County last increased landfill tipping fees in 2008. Barton County noticed an increase in illegal waste dumping around the County. It is reasonable to anticipate a significant increase in illegal waste dumping as a result of this bill.

The bottom line is that revenue is required to operate the landfill and to provide for post closure costs. Operation of the landfill is a service Barton County provides primarily to Barton County residents, with some use by out of county residents. It is a foreseeable consequence of this bill that Barton County and other users of the landfill will see increased costs to dispose of waste by virtue of this bill. Barton County users will see either increased property taxes or increased user fees. Out of county users will see increased costs to transport waste to facilities at significantly greater distances than Barton County. Increased illegal dumping is a likely consequence.

Barton County appreciates the opportunity to present this information to the Committee.