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SUBJECT: HB 2185, City-County Consolidation

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Good afternoon Mr. Chair and members of the committee.

My name is Paul Degener, I am a resident of rural Shawnee County and appear today before this committee in opposition to HB 2185.

It can almost be assured that a bill proposing city-county consolidation will raise its ugly head each legislative session.

I oppose any form of city-county consolidation but if a bill of this nature comes before the Kansas Legislature it most assuredly must have a provision for a dual majority vote.

Following are a few biases in favor of the cities in each consolidation bill introduced in the Kansas Legislature.

- a. Every consolidation bill favors the several cities within a county by providing them the opportunity to opt out of the resolution whereas the rural portions of the county are not afforded the same consideration.
- b. Section 2 (c), page 2 of HB 2185 stipulates that a study commission be established and that at least 1/3 of the membership of that commission be residents of the unincorporated area of the county. It is realized that the preponderance of the population of Shawnee County are urban residents, but to be fair the rural area of the county should have equal representation.

Every consolidation bill has provided that officers of the county may be appointed or elected. This is unsatisfactory in that the appointed members, not elected members, of the study commission are given the power to determine if officers of the county will be elected or appointed. This provision could conceivably strip the people of their powers as provided for in our representative republic as originally intended by the Founding Fathers.

Although the public has been brain washed for decades to believe that this country was founded as a democracy by the media and elected officials it has to be understood that this country was founded as a representative republic by the Founding Fathers. If this bill is passed it will be supporting a democracy which the Founding Fathers found to be repugnant. Thomas Jefferson said that a democracy is like to wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. This is what you would be doing to the unincorporated portions of the counties of this state. The preponderance of the population of Shawnee County resides within the city limits of Topeka. With their population advantage they would have the power to elect all of the officials and impose their urbanite ideas on the less populated rural area of the county. With this you are advocating regionalism, a Communist concept.

One last thought. I have a quote I want to read to you. “. . . , **gradual abolition of all the distinction between town and country**” **I want to read that quote to you again: “. . . ; gradual abolition of all the distinction between town and country**”

That certainly does sound like city-county consolidation to me. That, members of the committee is a portion of the 9th plank of the Communist Manifesto.

Over the past 100 years United States has adopted at least 4 of the 10 Planks of the Communist Manifesto and what is most troubling to me is that as a retired veteran I spent a large portion of my life in the fight against Communism and when I mention that this bill relates to one of the planks of the Communist Manifesto or other planks of the manifesto that this country has adopted, I perceive a ho-hum response.

Is this legislature going to further these Communist goals or to pursue our American ideals?

I urge you to submit a no vote on HB 2185 and allow it to die in committee.

I will stand for questions.