



House Bill 2047  
House Committee on Taxation  
Testimony by Doug Mays  
Representing the City of Olathe  
January 29, 2013

The City of Olathe fully supports the intent of HB 2047. For years, Olathe has gone to great lengths to be very open and transparent with tax dollars, and welcomes efforts to increase resident engagement in the process that determines how much and how tax dollars will be collected and where that money will be invested. This strategy has led to good government and exceptionally high citizen satisfaction levels.

Steps include hosting public forums, speaking to numerous groups, maximizing social media to share information, encouraging participation through newsletters and media campaigns, making sure comprehensive budget related information is easily available and understandable. In fact, Olathe pioneered the “Budget E-Town Hall Meeting” to ensure citizens have every opportunity to engage in how their money is being spent.

As such, the City continues exploring new opportunities to engage taxpayers in the budget process, including determining how much tax revenue should be collected, and fully supports efforts to bring more public participation and understanding into the process.

While the City supports HB 2047’s intent as explained, we have concerns about the language currently included. It currently lacks clarity and could be misinterpreted moving forward. The City is more than happy to assist in developing language that will help meet the bill’s intent as well as the Olathe’s goal.