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Subject: My strong SUPPORT of Senate Bill No. 109

Good morning Chairman Pyle and members of the Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government committee. My name is John Todd. I live in Wichita, Kansas. I am here to offer my strong Support for the passage of Senate Bill No. 109 that would prohibit the use of public funds either directly or indirectly for lobbying at the state or local level.

My active career was that of a self-employed real estate broker and land developer. I am an active member in the Wichita Independent Business Association, having served on the association's board of directors and governmental affairs committee for many years. I am a board member of the Park City Chamber of Commerce. As Vice President of The Wichita Pachyderm Club, I spend much of my spare time in planning the weekly luncheon meeting programs for the club. I am also active as the Wichita Area volunteer coordinator for Americans for Prosperity—Kansas.

I have been addressing Kansas legislative committees on private property and other citizen's rights issues here in Topeka since the 1990's. When appearing before legislative committees, I always speak for myself as a private Kansas citizen. I am always here on my own time, and I pay all of my own travel expenses. When I first started testifying before legislative committees I was shocked to discover that during a majority of committee hearings, many of the opposing speakers before the committee, with diametrically opposing views to mine, were, more often than not, those of paid governmental lobbyists, who were, oh yes, being paid for both their time and travel expenses either directly or indirectly out of the taxpayer's treasury.

I believe that government lobbying with taxpayer money is toxic to representative democracy. It pits government interests against those of private citizens. Allowing government agents to lobby with taxpayer funds drowns out the voices of regular citizens and places their interests at a distinct disadvantage. It is patently unfair and passage of this bill will serve the people of Kansas well in stopping this undemocratic process.

I urge you to support the passage of Senate Bill No. 109 that would prohibit the use of public funds either directly or indirectly for lobbying at the state or local level.

I would be glad to stand for questions.

Thank you,

John Todd