



City of Phillipsburg

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February 11, 2013

Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
Senator Dennis Pyle, Chairman
State Capitol
Topeka, KS

RE: SB 109

Dear Senator Pyle and Senate Committee Members:

I write to voice my concern about Senate Bill 109, an act concerning lobbying and the use of public funds. As the President of the League of Kansas Municipalities but more so as the City Clerk of a rural Kansas community with a population of less than 3,000, I must voice my opposition to SB 109. Our city must rely on the professional organizations our city has membership in to keep us up to date on the work of the state legislators and also to carry our message of support or concern to those same legislators. With the fast pace and quick scheduling of hearings and much more we must have a voice which is available in Topeka to share our concerns with you. We are members of not only LKM but also Kansas Municipal Utilities and the Kansas Rural Water Association which also share our concerns with you.

The bill states nothing in this section shall prevent officers or employees of the state or a municipality or an association representing certain municipalities from communicating with a member of the legislature on the request of that member or communicating to the legislature, through the proper official channels, requests for legislative action or appropriations which are deemed necessary for the efficient conduct of the public business or actually made in the performance of their official duties". Does this bill limit the voices of cities, counties, and all local government at the Capitol? I believe it does. It is certainly much easier to govern without the debate and having to hear from those who may not agree with you however that is not how we do or should do government in Kansas. Transparency in government has been the buzz word the past couple of years and in my opinion this bill is on that very edge of taking away an aspect of transparency which is to allow local government representatives to participate in the legislative process.

Please do not support SB109 and limit the voice of local government. You need to hear from us as much as we need to hear from you. Thank you for your willingness to serve Kansans.

Sincerely,

Brenda L. Chance
City Clerk of Phillipsburg Kansas
President of the League of Kansas Municipalities