



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Larry Jones, Finney County Commissioner
Before the House Federal and State Affairs Committee
In Opposition to House Bill No. 2201
March 8, 2017**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Kiowa

Lane

Logan

Meade

Morton

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Rush

Scott

Seward

Sheridan

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

Chairman Barker and Members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Established in 1980, Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) is a non-partisan organization comprised of elected county commissioners representing the collective interests of 35 rural Kansas counties. Thank you for allowing KLPG to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill No. 2201, which creates new contract reporting and record-keeping requirements for state agencies which includes local governments.

This measure seeks to expand government at a time when local governments are struggling to fund essential services – law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, E-911, county health departments, hospitals, libraries and roadways. Many of our member counties have small staffs, wearing many hats and serving in multiple roles. This legislation will require additional personnel, technology enhancements and other expenditures by local governments to comply with the tracking and monitoring requirements in the bill.

KLPG counties operate in a fiscally responsible manner, develop sustainable budgets to fund efficient county operations and provide the best service possible to build public confidence in government functions. Given the distant location of our member communities and our limited financial resources this is often a difficult task and we look for ways to reduce costs and avoid unnecessary expenditures whenever we can, many times by sharing services or equipment with our neighboring counties.

Our member counties are supportive of open government through transparency and accountability, but compliance with this measure seems excessive for small local units of government to implement and will likely raise the costs of government. We can't shrink government by growing government.

This legislation might be a better limited to state government contracting activities. Requiring local governments to spend resources to participate in a reporting system that may not provide meaningful and easily understood results is unwarranted.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present written testimony to the Committee. I urge you to oppose House Bill No. 2011 as drafted.

Larry Jones
President
Kansas Legislative Policy Group

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE POLICY GROUP