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January 24, 2017

To: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

From: The City of McLouth, McLouth, Kansas

Subject: SB 31 Testimony in Support

Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee:

The City of McLouth would like to see SB 31 pass. Last year we were forced to demolish a very old "nursing home" that was, at one time, a hotel. This hotel was said to have been used by some important people from history. The reason that we needed to demolish it is due to the long process of obtaining control of the property.

The owner was elderly and then passed, her roommate kept the bills paid but too was not able to do any upkeep to the residence. Years later he passed. The residence housed some very nice articles that were left by wonderful people. The taxes hadn't been paid. The structure was failing. After everyone had passed the residence really fell apart. It became a danger to the community. Then it was broken into and all of the nice things were taken. The police department had to board up the windows and doors but we still did not have rights over the property. After many years of trying to do something with the "hotel/nursing home" we had to proceed with the demolition. It was too far gone to save. The city had to finance the demolition and now has a lien against the property. It is 3 large lots with nothing on it. The city also had to have the grounds properly dressed so it looks nice.

If SB 31 passes, we would be able to work with these properties before they are beyond repair.

Currently we have a small house that has been sitting for over 7 years. There have delays with tax sales, delays on everything. It sits there, truck in the front yard, waiting for someone or something to care for it. Give the cities a chance to clean up these places and make our cities a great place to live.

Thank you,

Kim Everley

City Administrator/Clerk
City of McLouth