

March 13, 2018

Committee On Ethics, Elections and Local Government
Kansas State Senate
Topeka, Ks.

To: Chairwoman Elaine Bowers
Re: HB2506

Senator Bowers,

Please allow me to state that I emphatically oppose the above mentioned house bill for the following reasons:

1. The very idea of a governing body engaging in the act of taking a private citizens personal Private property, WITHOUT paying fair value, is bordering on unconstitutional to me.
2. Eminent Domain laws require taking a private property ONLY for public use, highways, bridges, etc.
3. The house bill before your commission today, does not fit these laws. Rather, it is simply an attempt by local municipalities to OVERREACH their authorities.
4. The passage of this bill would have negative impacts on poor and disadvantaged people, many of whom are people of color.
5. Many of these so called "blighted" properties, can and have been rehabilitated and occupied by local first time homebuyers. Utilizing his method, everybody wins. The state, the local municipalities, as well as the homeowner. (see John Todds exhibit.)

For these and other reasons, I strongly oppose the passage of house bill 2506.

Sincerely,

James E. Barfield
Wichita, Ks. 67208
316/708-9216