



## EL DORADO

THE FINE ART OF LIVING WELL

January 31, 2017

Dear Senator Givens,

The League of Kansas Municipalities sent the City of El Dorado notice last night that SB 76 is seeking to eliminate the ability for cities to establish any new occupational fees or licensing requirements on any profession. The new bill will also prevent us from charging more than \$25 annually for a fee that has been previously in place.

The City of El Dorado requires very few licenses for businesses, the ones we do require are in place to help offset regulation costs and help us to maintain a safe and healthy city. El Dorado currently charges a fee of \$50 per day or \$500 per year for Transient Merchants and Door to Door sales people. This fee has allowed us to regulate the number of people who set up booths in parking lots and therefore are not required to pay property taxes like our brick and mortar businesses. These merchants often take money out of our community instead of recirculating it so that it benefits all of our businesses and citizens. The fee enables us to track these businesses and determine if they are paying sales tax. We also apply this fee to check licenses of door to door sales people, most recently the influx of roofing companies that came to our city after the hail storm in May of 2015. These companies caused a lot of stress for our citizens, and by making them go through the process of obtaining a license and paying for that license, we were able to prevent roofing companies who did not have proper insurance from selling their services in our city. The State of Kansas commended our city for the system we had in place and asked us to share it with other cities. The City recently made a significant investment in a community market building where we encourage transient vendors to open booths and sell their items.

The Engineering/Building department also requires a fee of more than \$25 for electrical, mechanical and plumbing contractors. This license fee offsets the costs of our sponsorship for their state examination and inspection requirements. It also helps us ensure that they are covered by insurance and gives us a method of recourse to deal with contractors who do not treat the citizens as they should.

We ask that you oppose this legislation so that we may continue to protect the health and safety of our citizens, protecting our existing businesses and being fair to these businesses. Please contact us at 316-321-9100 or at [rickard@eldoks.com](mailto:rickard@eldoks.com) with any questions.

A CITY OF CHARACTER

220 E. First | El Dorado, KS 67042 | Phone 316.321.9100 | Fax 316.321.6282

[www.eldoks.com](http://www.eldoks.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'S' followed by a large, looped 'R'.

Scott Rickard  
Acting City Manager

SR/ts