



City of Dodge City

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To: Chairman Fred Patton and members of the House Judiciary Committee
From: Cherise Tieben, City Manager & Ernestor De La Rosa, Assistant City Manager/Legislative Affairs
Date: February 15, 2019
Subject: Written Testimony in opposition of House Bill 2219

Honorable Chair and Committee Members:

Thank you for considering my testimony on behalf of the City of Dodge City in opposition of House Bill 2219, which would require that any public body/agency subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) record audio or video of any meeting that is required to be open to the public and make that recording or video accessible to the public within 24-hours after the meeting.

The City of Dodge City believes that KOMA serves as a pillar for transparency when it comes to accessibility to the business of state and local public agencies. However, HB 2219 would be difficult and almost impossible to comply for the following reasons:

- The City of Dodge City currently has eighteen active board and committee groups. Some of these boards/committees meet on the weekends to provide flexibility to its members who would otherwise not be able to attend meetings during the week. Keeping this in mind, if a board or committee meets on a Saturday, the 24-hour publication requirement would be difficult to achieve.
- The City of Dodge City currently has one full-time staff person responsible for making public information available to the public. If HB 2219 is passed, the City of Dodge City would be forced to hire a second full-time staff to carry out these responsibilities.
- Rural municipalities smaller than Dodge City do not have dedicated staff or equipment to comply with the proposed legislation. The passage of this legislation would mean added costs for additional personnel, storage, and equipment for already struggling municipalities with limited budgets and declining populations.

We urge you to work with all parties and find consensus among all interested groups. We strongly ask that you to oppose House Bill 2219 and respectfully request that the Committee does not advance HB 2219 for further consideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Cherise Tieben
City Manager


Ernestor De La Rosa
Assistant City Manager/Legislative Affairs