

DERBY **INFORMER**

March 13, 2020

To: Sen. Julia Lynn, chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce
From: Jeff Cott, Kansas Press Association Membership Legislative Director
Re: Testimony in opposition to House Bill 2454

The reality that can result from House Bill 2454 creates consumer chaos for those who seek to find information on available seized property for sale through the self-storage industry in Kansas. Local newspapers have been the resource consumers go to when seeking public notice information. It's easy, accessible and a trusted source. But most importantly it is currently what the public expects.

For many decades newspapers have been the source for all public notices. The idea of moving away from newspapers for a single industry makes no sense, when others are obligated to follow the law. The free-for-all this bill will cause is not only bad for the consumer of public notices, it may well disrupt the storage industry too and more likely leave open the door to non-compliance.

Changing the self-storage industries public notice requirement to a "commercially reasonable manner" can easily be redefined as "do whatever you want and anything goes." That isn't a justifiable way to bring fairness to an already proven, fair and official notice process.

Why are we creating an exemption from the standards for one industry? What makes the process of disposing of property for them, less important and more unrestricted than it is for others required to use public notice?

Please maintain the standards and the process for all public notices. I ask that you reject this bill.