



To: Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee
From: Barack Matite, City manager
Date: February 5th, 2019
Re: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 59

Honorable Chairperson Bowers and Members of the Committee:

In 1968, the Eudora Township Public Library was established to serve Township residents. At the time, the city of Eudora, as a third-class city, was part of the Eudora Township. The Library has been located within the corporate limits of the City since its inception and residents of both the City and the Township have jointly provided the revenue needed for its maintenance and operations.

In December 2010, the city of Eudora was declared a city of the second-class; thus, per state statute (K.S.A. 15-104), the City was no longer considered part of the Eudora Township. With this classification, the Township lost its authority to directly receive revenues from City residents, however, both the City and the Township entered into an interlocal agreement to allow this to continue. The interlocal agreement is only a temporary fix as it does not address issues such as:

- Governance (statutorily, who needs to be on the Library Board? How do they get to be on the board?)
- Funding (the interlocal agreement is renewed annually, what happens if it's not renewed?)
- Bonding (if the Library Board desires to issue bonds, who would participate in the ballot initiative?)
- Sustenance (the Library needs revenue from both the City and the Township, what happens if one of the two governing bodies decide not to fund it or limit its funding?)

The issues above, among others, can only be addressed by Senate Bill 59. Currently, no state statute exists that can address our situation in Eudora. If it did, we would not be before you. As presented, Senate Bill 59 is the only path forward for us to honor the founders of the Eudora Township Public Library and make sure it is sustainable moving forward. I urge you to pass SB 59 as introduced.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you in support of SB 59.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Barack Matite", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Barack Matite
City Manager