



March 15, 2022

House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Chairman John Barker
State Capitol Building
Room 346-S

RE: Opposition Testimony to HB 2717

Chairman Barker and members of the committee:

My name is Jake Miller, and I am the executive director of the Working Kansas Alliance (WKA). WKA is an organization made up of labor organizations and non-labor organizations who stand together in support of workers' rights and other potential laws that would impact workers. WKA stands in opposition to HB 2717 as it attempts to undermine local control and home rule.

In Kansas, over the years the legislature has adopted many laws that has taken local control away from our counties and local municipalities. These laws undermine our local communities in an attempt to govern for them. Local municipalities know their communities better than the state as a whole which is why home rule was incorporated in the Kansas Constitution.

Kansas has 105 counties and even more cities. All of these are different from one another. Due to this the Kansas Constitution has a home rule provision allowing for local control as our Constitution acknowledges that there is not a one size fits all approach in Kansas. Passage of HB 2717 will undermine not only local communities but also undermines the purpose of home rule within our own State's Constitution.

If the Legislature were to pass HB 2717, they are treating the Kansas Constitution as if it doesn't exist. In recent years we have seen local control taken away on many issues, and here is another attempt to do the same. We must allow our local communities to govern. As such, WKA must stand in opposition to HB 2717.

Should the committee have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Jake Miller at jdm235@gmail.com.

Respectfully,



Jake Miller
Executive Director
Working Kansas Alliance