Donald P. Pyle
PO Box 249
111 E. Forest St.
Girard, Kansas 66743

620-724-6115
Fax 620-724-6007
www.crawfordcountykansas.com
countyclerk@ckt.net

Office of the Crawford County Clerk

March 11, 2013

Honorable Kansas State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer
Chairman, Senate Standing Committee on Federal and State Affairs
and Distinguished Members of the Committee

Re: Senate Bill 10, Concerning Open Meetings, Open Records and Charges for Open Records

Chairman Ostmeyer and Distinguished Committee Members,

As County Clerk for Crawford County, I thank you for your time in allowing me to testify on this bill. The Kansas Open Records Act and Kansas Open Meetings Act have been functioning for many years. I feel that our office should be allowed to recover the reasonable amount of our expenses involved in a Request for Open Records.

Our office fulfills many requests for open records each year in addition to helping our local residents file over two hundred Homestead Tax Refunds and Food Sales Tax Refunds each year. Our office makes many copies and uses a lot of resources in providing services free of charge to our local residents. We very rarely charge for the time that our employees spend in fulfilling Open Records Requests. Only when we have a request that we know will take several hours to fulfill do we even worry about our employee expenses. We also have some standard reports that many local residents request several times per year at $.25 per page. They pay these charges without a second thought.

Our office works hard to give our local residents good service and to provide them with many free services. I oppose this bill because I feel that we should be able to recover our expenses involved with Requests For Open Records. I respectfully request that you carefully consider these factors in making your decision on this matter. Thank you for allowing me to testify and for allowing me to share the reasons that I do not support these changes.

Sincerely,

Donald P. Pyle
Crawford County Clerk and Election Officer
countyclerk@ckt.net