



KANSAS
PET
PROTECTION
COALITION

**House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Testimony in opposition to HB 2446**

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Chair Carpenter and members of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. I am Ashley Beason, and I represent the Kansas Pet Protection Coalition and our coalition partners, listed on the second page of this testimony. These include animal shelters and rescues and commercial pet entities advancing the health and wellness of pet animals in Kansas. The Kansas Pet Protection Coalition opposes House Bill 2446.

The Kansas Pet Protection Coalition supports local governments' right to solve local problems locally. While we have no specific interest in plastic bags or auxiliary containers, we do believe this bill is a potential vehicle for broader preemption language. The Kansas Chamber of Commerce has made its preemption agenda clear, including that it is working to stop local governments from restricting or regulating the sale of any consumer merchandise or service as seen in SB 47 and HB 2447. This attempt, which failed in the Senate Commerce Committee just before Turnaround and was heard in House Commerce on Monday, is far-reaching and would have unintended consequences.

The catalyst for HB 2447 was Wichita's conversation about banning retail sales of puppies and kittens in pet stores, much like the catalyst for this bill was Lawrence's conversation about banning the use of single-use plastic bags. Neither has yet come to fruition, but if a local community chooses to solve a local problem—like pet overpopulation or plastic litter—through local ordinances, it should have the right to do so. Please do not tie communities' hands.

Across the preemption bills we've seen this session, the concept is the same. Each one is an overreaching, blanket solution looking for a problem that does not yet exist. However, when local problems do arise, local people should be able to solve them locally.

The Kansas Pet Protection Coalition urges you to oppose House Bill 2446. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Beason
Lobbyist

Kansas Animal Control Association – McPherson
Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation – Topeka
PALS – Wichita
Spay/Neuter Kansas – Wichita
Wichita Animal Action League – Wichita
Beauties and Beasts – Wichita
Nika Orebaugh – Sedgwick County ACO – Wichita
Shanti Mikolajczyk– Sedgwick County ACO Advisory Board
Ellen Querner – Wichita Animal Advisory Board
Double 25 Animal Sanctuary – Derby
Leavenworth County Humane Society
Atchison Humane Society
Western Plains Animal Refuge – Hays
SEK HS – Pittsburg
Flint Hills Animal Advocates – Emporia
Proud Animal Lovers Humane Society – Parsons
Golden Belt HS – Great Bend
Pawnee County Humane Society – Larned
Humane Society of the United States
Sydney Mollentine – CEO – The Humane Society of Greater KC
Great Plains SPCA – Merriam
Chandler Jacobson – Galena Animal Control