



To: Senate Local Government Committee

From: Nathan Eberline – Kansas Association of Counties

Date: January 23, 2012

Re: County Capacity to Accept Payments by Credit Card (Senate Bill 207)

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 207, which clarifies the authority of Kansas counties to accept credit- and debit-card payments. There has been a point of confusion as to whether counties currently have the authority to receive such payments, and while KAC has maintained that this capacity is currently in place, we have member counties that are concerned with the legality of accepting credit-card payments.

The language in SB 207 specifies that “[a]ny county may accept credit or debit cards for the payment of any taxes, utility fees, or other exactions.” The new language will help counties offer a service that residents often expect to receive from their local government. SB 207 also allows counties to recoup the expense of offering the credit- or debit-card option with the provision that counties “may set a fee to be added to each credit card transaction equal to the charge paid by the county for the use of the credit card by the person.” This will allow counties to account for the surcharges that credit-card companies often add for the privilege of using a credit card. The option to receive debit and credit cards is currently available to cities through K.S.A. 12-16,125. KAC respectfully asks that the legislature grant counties the same option.

As counties continue to seek ways to better serve Kansans, this legislation will clarify that counties can indeed accept payments via debit and credit cards. With that in mind, KAC requests favorable passage of SB 207. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

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