



CITY OF HUMBOLDT

OFFICE OF CITY ADMINISTRATION

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To: Local Government Committee

From: Larry Tucker, City Administrator
Humboldt KS

Re: Testimony on House Bill 2089 and 2118

I am writing this letter of testimony in support of House Bill No. 2089 and 2118. These amendments to the state historic preservation laws are needed to help rural communities have control over the decisions regarding improvements to privately owned structures within the 500 feet requirements of historic structures.

The City of Humboldt would like to create a historic district and place a number of structures on the national and state historic register. However, current laws restrict its ability to create such a district due to the outside oversight of building improvements which may or may not have any influence on the historic designations determined by the local citizens of the community.

In addition, this law is hurting rural communities such as Humboldt from raising outside tax credit funding for improvements to its historic structures. Because the City has no final say over the improvements made to others near its historic areas, a historic district which is required for outside funding cannot occur.

Please support this legislative change to give local control or exemption of private property improvements in towns that want to establish historic districts. Local citizens know the history and preservation of its local communities better than outsiders in Topeka. The future of rural communities depends on having the ability to determine its destiny.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Tucker
City Administrator
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