



1431 • 17th Ave. • McPherson, KS 67460 • (620) 241-6559

February 7, 2013

Dear Representative Huebert:

I am the general manager of a company called the McPherson Area Solid Waste Utility. We are a quasi-governmental entity created over 20 years ago by an inter-local agreement between three separate entities -McPherson County, the City of McPherson and all of the other small incorporated cities within the county. We were formed to oversee everything related to solid waste in our county. We collect and dispose of almost all of the waste generated in our county and also provide recycling, composting and other waste diversion services to our citizens. We currently transfer our waste to the City of Salina landfill and the Reno County landfill. However, we have obtained a permit for and are building our own Subtitle D landfill in order to control the costs of trash disposal for our citizens for a long period of time.

We are opposed to HB 2072. There are many public entities especially landfills that provide solid waste services outside their jurisdictions. At this point the only service we provide outside of our county is servicing a recycling site for the City of Hillsboro. However, at some point our member entities (county and cities) may want us to provide service outside of the county in order to increase revenues especially when we have our landfill. To prevent us from doing that would be unfair to our citizens. It would also be unfair to other public and private entities outside of McPherson County that may want to use our services because we are the most cost effective option for them.

Personally I am a big supporter of private business, but if a public entity can do it better and/or cheaper why not let them do it? Furthermore, it appears this bill is meant to help private trash companies compete, but there are many public and private trash collecting companies that if they could not take their trash to the nearest landfill and had to take it to a privately run landfill would go out of business or have to raise their rates significantly. We are building our own landfill with a very substantial investment, but if we weren't, we would have to transfer our trash at least three times the distance than we do now. Doing that of course would be significantly more expensive.

Finally, I believe solid waste is different than other industries because of the environmental liability. The formation of our utility is a prime example of that. At that time, the main county landfill was run by a private company that also collected much of the trash in the county. They accepted illegal waste into the landfill and created a significant black mark on McPherson County throughout the state. Our utility was formed to prevent this from happening again. However, that ordeal probably cost the citizens over \$2,000,000. In the end, public entities are ultimately responsible for the unlimited environmental liability of solid waste contamination. To reduce the role of public entities in the solid waste industry in Kansas in no way benefits our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration to prevent this bill from going from going any further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hawk".

John Hawk
General Manager