



**Testimony of Jim Rice, Seward County Commissioner
Before the House Local Government
RE: House Bill No. 2072
February 12, 2013**

Member Counties

*Barber
Barton
Clark
Cloud
Ellis
Finney
Gove
Grant
Gray
Hamilton
Harper
Haskell
Hodgeman
Lane
Logan
Meade
Morton
Ness
Norton
Rawlins
Rice
Russell
Seward
Scott
Sheridan
Stanton
Stevens
Thomas
Trego
Wallace
Wichita*

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before the Committee today. I am Jim Rice, a county commissioner from Seward County, Kansas. Today, I am representing Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG), which is a consortium of 33 western Kansas counties. KLPG has been in existence for over thirty years and these 33 counties together on issues and matters of mutual concern and common interest. Each of those 33 counties either has an operating landfill system or is using the services of a landfill in a neighboring county.

KLPG is strongly opposed to House Bill 2072. Currently there are no rules prohibiting a private company from providing a solid waste service to any community in Kansas, providing the private company follows the guidelines concerning solid waste disposal as established by the Legislature and KDHE.

Historically, usually for economic reasons the private sector has chosen not to provide many other necessary and vital community services. Local governments often fill those niche needs and provide services, such as, fire protection, emergency medical services, road and bridge operations, and solid waste service.

Like state government, local units of government face challenging financial times and in order to be more efficient and good stewards of taxpayers money, local units of government often enter into inter-local agreements, which very simply are contracts between governing bodies to work together cooperating on a mutually beneficial project.

With specific regard to solid waste, inter-local agreements have been in place for many years between local governments due to a need. The need was created because private industry chose not to establish a solid waste service in many rural Kansas counties simply because of economics.

Because the private sector chose not to provide needed solid waste services, many counties stepped up to the plate and began operating solid waste systems.

Many Kansas county and city solid waste providers are impacted by this proposed legislation. KLPG has serious reservations that local governments may not be able to continue in providing competitive solid waste services for their communities. KLPG strongly opposes HB 2072.

Thank you for allowing me to testify and I am pleased to answer any questions.

Jim Rice

Seward County Commissioner,
Member County - Kansas Legislative Policy Group