

CLAY COUNTY LANDFILL

1330 21st Road

Clay Center, KS 67432

Phone: 785-632-2487 Fax: 785-632-2343

Debbie Charrest: Supervisor Cell # 785-632-7220

E-mail: claycowed@claycountycansasa.org

Hours of Operation: Monday - Friday 8:00a.m. to 5:00p.m./Saturday's 8:00 a.m. to Noon

H.B. 2072 - Opposed

The Clay County Landfill is very concerned about the adverse effects that H.B. 2072 would have on our current operations within Clay County. Our landfill is funded strictly by property assessments, gate fees and recycling income. We have invested millions of dollars complying with State and Federal regulations to build and maintain a Sub-title "D" landfill, although our landfill is one of the smallest in the state, the rules still apply to all. It is Clay County's policy to not accept waste from any other County other than Clay (because of taxpayer assessments) but we still would be adversely affected by this proposed legislation.

Clay County hauls about 50% of our own recycling off site to various locations across the state for marketing purposes; this act involves crossing jurisdictional boundaries. All these recyclables have been diverted from the waste stream and are not being land-filled. By our recycling efforts, we are trying to make our landfill capacity last longer therefore keeping our costs down saving our taxpayers any additional expense.

We belong to the Big Lakes Regional Household Hazardous Waste group. The Counties involved include Clay, Dickinson, Geary, Marshall, Morris, Nemaha, Pottawatomie, Riley, Wabunsee and Washington. This 10 County region provides an environmentally responsible disposal option for all citizens within these Counties to get rid of possible contaminants such as flammables, corrosives, pesticides, aerosols, dioxins, oil and latex paints, fluorescent bulbs, oils and oil filters etc.. If this program would not be allowed under this new legislation, because of the crossing of jurisdictional borders, the lack of this valuable service would definitely be adversely affected on everyone living within these Counties. The consequences of not having this service available could lead to contamination issues in quite a large area.

When I first heard about this new legislation I did not think that the privates would consider our area because we are very rural and spread out. But right now within our own County, the City of Wakefield (the second largest city within our County's border) already is using Waste Management as a trash service provider. And just recently they have been offered a single stream curb-side recycling program by the same Company. The Clay County Landfill already does not receive the refuse (therefore the tipping fee) from Wakefield, now we are going to lose their recycling volume as well. I fear that we will not be able to keep our doors open should this happen in our largest populated City of Clay Center. We rely heavily on the gate fees collected and the volume of recycling collected thru the curb-side recycling program that Clay Center provides.

In closing it is my feeling that should this legislation pass into law it will force our County out of business and create a hardship on our citizens. The remaining volume of our landfill will still need to have the same input costs of labor and machinery to comply with the KDHE regulations of monitoring & post-closure care that it carries now, but without the collection of tipping fees (except for the few farmers that may still need to use the landfill because a private may not want them), and will not be utilized unless God forbid we have some kind of disaster event, creating a huge (and unnecessary) expense to our taxpayers.

Debbie K. Charest
Clay County Landfill, HHW, Recycling,
& Weed Department Supervisor