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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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EILEEN HORN
10TH DISTRICT

Feb 15, 2018

PROPONENT Testimony on HB 2727

Requiring contracts for the sale of real estate to provide notice of mineral, oil and gas interests.

Dear Chairman Sloan and Members of the Committee:

I stand before you today as a proponent of HB 2727, a bill that would require contracts for the sale of real estate to provide education and notice of mineral, oil, and gas interests.

I was inspired to work with stakeholders to draft HB 2727 in response to two factors:

First, I've had multiple conversations with constituents in my district and around the state who were caught off guard by the scale of the oil and gas activities that occurred on their property. In eastern Kansas, we are seeing an increase in oil and gas drilling activity, both for extraction and saltwater storage. Oftentimes, property buyers are unaware that the surface and mineral rights on a property may be owned separately. They also may not anticipate the variety of activities involved in oil and gas activities and how that may impact their quality of life and enjoyment of their rural property.

Second, this bill addresses a recommendation from the KCC Oil and Gas Advisory Committee. On January 18, you received a report from Ryan Hoffman, Conservation Director at the KCC responding to HB 2189. The Oil and Gas Advisory Committee recognized the potential that title insurers and realtors may not be adequately conveying what rights landowners have when the land they want to purchase is subject to a mineral lease.

Therefore, we looked at surrounding states for model legislation, and found a Colorado state statute that we adapted to create HB 2727. I believe that this is an important first step to ensure that Kansans have the information they need to make informed decisions about their property and how oil and gas activities might impact their quality of life and use of their property.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen Horn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eileen" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Horn".