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**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF HB 2094**

**TO:** Chairperson Elaine Bowers, Vice-Chairperson Steve Fitzgerald, and members of the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

**FROM:** Chairman Dave Unruh, Board of County Commissioners, Sedgwick County, KS


Sedgwick County supports the passage of HB 2094 adding more municipalities to the definition under K.S.A. 12-2908 and opening the door for more intergovernmental agreements.

Under the current statute, it is difficult for municipalities to maximize their efficiency because only cities, counties and townships can contract amongst themselves. Other agreements that can be mutually beneficial could be entered into with passage of HB 2094.

Sedgwick County has been reviewing how to address its overall stormwater management. Our advisory board has been working diligently to prioritize the over \$250 million in projects that have been identified in the County. The inability to contract with the local drainage districts affects the ability to comprehensively plan a long term stormwater management solution and implement it. HB 2094 would open the door for a partnership between the county, cities and drainage districts to effectively tackle this problem.

Sedgwick County also has a fire district. Currently, Sedgwick County Fire District Number One has mutual aid agreements to augment service in cities with their own fire departments. That is the limit to what our fire district can do. HB 2094 would allow for comprehensive fire control planning between the cities and the fire district.

The ability of local governments to work together within a region is beneficial to the taxpayers they provide service to. And it saves those taxpayers money. Sedgwick County has experienced this in its relationships with the cities and townships in our county. HB 2094 would allow greater local collaboration. Sedgwick County urges its passage.

  
Dave Unruh, Chairman  
Board of County Commissioners