

**Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Hearing on Senate Bill 360
By: Eric Stafford**

March 10, 2020

Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Senate Tax Committee, my name is Eric Stafford and I am a resident of Topeka here to speak in opposition to Senate Bill 360.

Senate Bill 360 would grant the Sherwood Improvement District (SID) for the Lake Sherwood neighborhood authority to impose a 1% sales tax increase for infrastructure investments if approved by the voters. However, the only retail center in the SID includes a Dillon's grocery store which my family purchases groceries. The only other store that would generate sales tax revenue I am familiar with is a Family Video just east of the Dillon's location, which is highlighted on a map of the SID included with my comments.

Our family lives just outside of the SID boundaries, so we would not have a say in whether the sales tax should be added onto groceries at the store which we shop. I do not believe it is fair for the Sherwood Improvement District to impose a sales tax on the only retail center inside of the boundaries to fund their infrastructure needs.

According to the SID website, their board has three elected individuals whose duties are to:

- Manage new road development
- Sustain the existing road infrastructure
- Manage and maintain drainage areas
- Levy new taxes to pay for budgeted expenses and improvements

If the neighborhood believes strongly enough to have its own local governing body, that governing body should be responsible to financially support the neighborhood on its own rather than asking other residents of the city to subsidize their infrastructure needs.

Thank you for allowing me to speak in opposition to Senate Bill 360.

W. Eric Stafford
Topeka, KS

Family
Dillons Video

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