

To: Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government

From: Amanda L. Stanley, General Counsel

Date: March 10, 2020

RE: Proponent Testimony for HB 2509

I want to thank Chairwoman Bowers and the Committee members for allowing the League of Kansas Municipalities the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2509.

HB 2509 is extremely specific legislation dealing with one small city of about 900 people in Lyon County, the City of Americus. The League was approached by the city in 2019 about how to deal with lots dedicated in the northeast section of the original town plat for a college and a park. Legally there is no way, other than legislation, to vacate these specific dedications. This has led to the land essentially being frozen in time. The city already has a park more centrally located as well as ball fields. With the proximity of Emporia State and K-State, it would be a poor utilization of taxpayer money to build an additional college.

The city would like to either sell the land and use the proceeds for the needs of the community or work to develop the land to put in much needed single-family dwellings that could help expand the tax base of the community. Neither of these options are even possible to explore unless the original dedication is vacated by the Legislature.

For these reasons, the League asks this Committee recommend HB 2509 be passed out favorably for passage to the full Senate for its consideration.