

February 2, 2012

Chairman Steve Huebert, Vice-Chairman Joe Seiwart, Ranking Minority Member Ann Mah and members of the Local Government Committee. Today, I am requesting the introduction of a companion bill in the Local Government Committee to Senate Bill 329.

Senate Bill 329 addresses an issue faced by the City of Chanute, Kansas and many of its citizens. The downtown core of Chanute, Kansas is now affected by four (4) historic properties, and the environs of such properties. The environs of any historic building covers 300 feet in all directions. Therefore, the downtown core of Chanute is excessively covered by the environs of these four historical properties.

The bill I am requesting for introduction as a House Bill (Senate Bill 329) would do two things:

- 1) Allow cities to adopt their own standards concerning historic properties, thereby exercising "local control" within the environs of historic buildings; and
- 2) Private property rights would be better protected by the local level having control over the environs created by historical buildings, than state or national levels of government.

Thank you for this opportunity to request this bill introduction.

Representative Jerry Williams
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Chanute, KS