



Testimony on House Bill 2662
presented to
House Committee on Local Government

by

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KDHE appreciates this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2662. For nearly two decades, KDHE has been a strong proponent of waste reduction efforts that result in the conservation of landfill space and natural resources. We have held an annual conference to train public and private sector employees to implement and operate recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste collection facilities. We have also administered grant programs that have distributed over 25 million dollars toward the implementation of waste reduction programs.

However, we also support the basic policy provisions of our existing solid waste planning and permitting laws that clearly give local planners and elected officials the authority to decide how to implement waste reduction practices. The provisions of this bill solidify this local decision-making authority by prohibiting one county or group of counties from establishing disposal restrictions on a privately-owned landfill operating within its boundaries. This is important because we have several privately-owned municipal solid waste landfills in Kansas that serve as regional facilities, some serving as many as 10 to 15 different counties.

Without the proposed prohibition on establishing disposal restrictions on recyclables, one county could establish regulations or ordinances that require other communities outside of their boundaries to implement waste reduction programs which could be costly to implement. For example, if a rural county is transferring their solid waste to a private landfill located in a county that has established new waste disposal restrictions, every small community in that rural county would need to implement separate collection and management programs for the restricted waste(s).

Overall, KDHE is supportive of city and county actions to minimize their waste generation and maximize recovery to the extent that these actions apply to the citizens and businesses within their jurisdictions.

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on HB 2662.