



Eudora Chamber of Commerce

Date: February 15, 2019
To: Chairman Finch and the House Judiciary Committee
From: Eudora Chamber of Commerce
Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 2219

Dear Chairman Finch and the House Judiciary Committee:

The Eudora Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes HB 2219 and its imposition of the severe measure to require our board to record with audio/visual equipment our meetings and to make those recordings accessible to the public within 24 hours of the meeting.

As we receive funding from the City of Eudora to partially support our one employee – a part-time staff person, we are subject to the requirements of the Kansas Open Meetings Act. To impose this more onerous and expensive requirement on our Chamber of Commerce would effectively severely limit our ability to conduct our mission of achieving economic vibrancy in the Eudora community and ultimately, for the State of Kansas. We see no need to record our board meetings as we don't conduct business that would typically be considered of interest to the general public and, again, the only use of the City funds we receive are for personnel and not for policy-related or political advocacy efforts.

The bill as proposed constitutes an unfunded mandate and would unduly burden our small budget and the limited staff support we currently have for, seemingly no benefit, or to address an issue or concern that is unrelated to the type of business we conduct at our meetings and events. The requirement to record meetings and make the recordings public within 24 hours is not feasible for our group and our ability to comply with this additional, provision would be without additional benefit to our community.

For these reasons, we urge you to consider the possible unfavorable repercussions of passage of HB 2219 and we urge you to vote no on HB 2219.

Kind regards,

Jeremiah Holcomb
President