

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

Dear Chairman Finch and the House Judiciary Committee:

The City of Eudora strongly opposes HB 2219 that would impose an onerous and unfunded mandate onto civic bodies, including our City Commission in Eudora. Our governing body currently keeps detailed record of public meetings in compliance with the existing provisions of the Kansas Open Meetings Act and believes this current requirement to keep written record is sufficient to maintaining and promoting transparency. Any additional mandate to record public meetings using modern audio or visual technology would – without a doubt – encumber additional funds from our limited budget. As we have received absolutely no questions or concerns from our constituents or members of the media about the quality or accessibility of our records using existing methods, we see the requirements of HB 2219 as an unfunded and unnecessary mandate, and which compliance with the proposed onerous provisions would be accompanied by an unbudgeted and detrimental impact on the limited funds we have the responsibility to steward.

The proposed mandate in HB 2219 to require that our governing body shall make such audio or video recording accessible to the public within 24 hours after such meeting is unclear and in some cases imposes an additional burden on our staff. We, at times, achieve quorum on Friday nights or Saturdays, whether for official business or for social events and, although we publish notice of quorum, these events may or may not be official city business and the quality of recording devices we would employ at such events under the requirements of the bill as written would not result in achieving levels of audio or visual quality of much use to the public. Further, the additional staff time required to make such recordings accessible to the public on weekends would be overly burdensome on staff and may even result in unintended and detrimental implications on our City's ability to comply with existing state and federal labor laws.

For these reasons, we urge you to consider the possible unfavorable repercussions of passage of HB 2219. Thank you for considering the position of the City of Eudora and for your thoughtful review of HB 2219 concerning the Kansas Open Meetings Act. We urge you to vote no on HB 2219.

Kind regards,



Tim Reazin  
Mayor