



February 13,2019

To: Committee on Local Government

From: Tim Danneberg, The City of Olathe

Subject: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2135

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The City of Olathe is in strong support of HB2135 regarding political signage. The City has concerns that the current state political sign statute (K.S.A. 2018 Supp. 25-2711), is at great risk for being challenged as it is content based. In addition, it creates definitive safety hazards and is inconsistent with Olathe residents' priorities.

Since the statute went into effect, the City has seen a proliferation of political signs in locations that not only distract drivers and impede sight lines but are also consistently placed in unsafe locations including intersections and medians. They are consistently placed in rights-of-way abutting parks and trails.

The City of Olathe actively engages residents by surveying through the ETC Institute. Those surveys have consistently indicated that the proliferation of temporary signs is of serious concern of our Olathe citizens, and addressing the issue has become a citizen priority.

While political campaigns are responsible for removal of signs in public right-of-way, but they rarely follow through with removal of all signs. Ultimately the sign clean-up creates a cost burden on local taxpayers to pay for removal.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments in favor of HB 2135. If you have any questions please feel free to reach me at (913) 971-8609.