



January 31st, 2023

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2059 House Committee on Federal & State Affairs

Chairman Carpenter and Members of the House Federal & State Affairs Committee:

The cities of Merriam and Mission wish to express their support for HB 2059. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2059, which we believe is a positive step for cities as we seek to make our public spaces and events more accessible, welcoming, and enticing for families and residents in our communities.

HB 2059, which amends the common consumption area law to *permit*, rather than *require*, the city ordinance or county resolution creating such area to block public streets or roadways from motorized traffic, is a positive change in the law for several reasons:

- HB 2059 makes the common consumption law more business friendly by allowing events to be coordinated more seamlessly into existing business districts.
- HB 2059 makes it easier for events to be nimble and adaptable, and allows for less disruption to surrounding businesses and parking.
- Supports “sip n’ stroll” events that are becoming increasingly popular and that encourage browsing throughout downtown areas and entertainment corridors, which positively impacts our local, small businesses, boutiques, and restaurants.
- HB 2059 allows for a more seamless process for special events, reducing the need to require road closures by the City and thus reducing the need for traffic closure costs, as well as reducing the need for unexpected, inconvenient detours for residents and visitors.
- Additionally, HB 2059 allows our cities to have greater communication and collaboration with businesses who may wish to initiate events on their own, without the need for heavy involvement at the city level.

In short, HB 2059 gives our cities the flexibility that is optimal as more and more families, young professionals, and businesses rely on entertainment districts for inviting events and gatherings that benefit residents and tourists alike. HB 2059 makes it easier for our communities to collaborate, plan for, and offer diverse events that make our communities more exciting, enriching, and vibrant places to live, work, and play.

It is with these points in mind that we request the committee support HB 2059 in the spirit of making it easier for our local officials to coordinate events that contribute to thriving communities for Kansas families. We appreciate your support and we welcome any questions or further discussion you may have on this matter.

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