

Chair McGinn, Vice Chair Bowers, Ranking Minority member Francisco, and members of the Committee,

I'm writing this testimony in support of SB 346. For almost two years now I have tried to stop a destructive rezoning path that the city council of Prairie Village has proposed. It all started during covid when the mayor of PV was appointed to the board of UCS, a nonprofit organization. UCS made far reaching housing recommendations for Johnson County. None of those were recommended for PV as we are a 6.2 square mile, fully built out city with no open land to build on. Prairie Village is also one of the densest cities in the state as our lots are smaller than most cities.

Don't get me wrong, we love our city and are proud of our charming, neighborhood feel.

Our mayor created an ad hoc committee, and they parroted the UCS report suggesting rezoning single family zones to cram in more rental properties. The city council unanimously approved the zoning changes for implementation.

That is when 200-300 citizens started attending city council meetings, emailing, calling, and demanding to be heard. When the council ignored our concerns, the residents created a citizen initiative to allow the citizens to vote. How democratic of us?! Over 3700 residents came out to parks all over the city to sign and say we want to vote. What did our council do? They sued us to stop the citizens from voting. I am here today to be heard. To ask for representation. To have the hope that our democratic system will listen. I support SB 346 so that cities can't rezone properties without landowner's consent.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Lori sharp