



Testimony

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Regulation of Food Labeling HB 2595

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House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City opposes House Bill 2595.

The Unified Government does not regulate food labeling based on nutrition, non-nutrition or anything else. We have no plans to do so. Maybe if we were New York City we would consider it, but we're not. I don't know of any city in Kansas which does so.

So why are we dealing with this bill? It's because it comes from the American Legislative Exchange Council, an organization that often seeks solutions to problems which don't exist, at least in Kansas. But Kansas legislators often latch onto ALEC model legislation and throw it into the mix of the legislative session.

The American Legislative Exchange Council bills itself as "America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism."

ALEC also contends, "All Americans deserve an efficient, effective and accountable government that puts the people in control," and "ALEC members understand the importance of hearing from all sides of an issue and value public-private partnership in policy discussions."

I want to offer a different perspective from the view of local government.

ALEC model policies are about monolithic, top-down, centralized, big brother laws which attempt to impose the views of its big money corporate members on every county, city and citizen in America. That's hardly small government, limited government, or local control.

Local control, a mainstay of the Kansas Constitution, is about "accountable government that puts people in control" because it leaves decisions to elected leaders closest to them in their own communities.

Please keep local control and true limited, accountable government in mind the next time an ALEC model policy bill comes up.