

Testimony for HB 2345

We are a very small and very rural city in a very rural county. The City of Paisley is located in Lake County. We have a population of a little over 200 people in Paisley. The realities of Lake County are that we have a little over a 1,000 people and 300,000 cows. We have also lost six lumber mills over the years. Now the governor is going to shut down our prison employing 108 people. Not sure how this helps the rural urban divide. Another stumbling block is that 78% of Lake County is owned by the government which means we get no tax dollars there.

Paisley knows all about economic struggles. We lost one of those lumber mills mentioned above. Our only full time restaurant burned a few years ago. In the last 6 years we have survived 3 major wildfires. In two of them we were at a level 2 evacuation. The Brattain fire took us to a level 3 and we were asked to evacuate for over a week. The EPA decided to change the allowable amount of arsenic in the water so we were required to get a loan to build a water treatment plant and the cost of chemicals just keeps rising. Now the state is looking at our sewer systems. Mandates without funding for small isolated rural communities are killers. All of our systems were put in about 50 years ago using a lot of volunteers and you can't do that anymore. Our main funding is water/sewer bills and our share of the property taxes. We have no full time employees and all council members are volunteers. A couple of well used pick ups make up our fleet.

Our greatest asset is our wonderfully strong resilient people that never give up and God seems to be on our side. Grants are our hope and we could use all the help we can get.

We encourage you to pass HB 2345 Thank you all.