

Dear Representatives Marcelle, Knox, and McMakin,

I am writing as President of the Sagefield Crime Prevention and Improvement District to express my concern regarding HB 627 and the significant burden it would place on small crime prevention districts across Louisiana.

Many of the bills affecting HOAs, CPIDs, and CPDs in recent years appear to be driven by isolated homeowner complaints rather than a clear statewide problem. Legislators often hear from one or two frustrated individuals, but they rarely hear from the volunteers who actually run these districts every day. As a result, well-intentioned bills are drafted without input from the people who understand the workload, the cost, and the legal responsibilities involved. This leads to statewide mandates that are disproportionate to the issue they are trying to solve and place heavy burdens on small, volunteer-run districts.

Most CPIDs, including ours, are operated entirely by volunteers and do not outsource administrative or technical labor. We already comply with public records law, provide proper meeting notices, allow public comment, and post minutes and resolutions in a timely manner. However, the requirements in HB 627 to broadcast, record, and store video of all public meetings would impose substantial new costs and technical obligations that many CPIDs are not equipped to handle.

Before we can even address how long video footage must be stored, we must point out that many small CPIDs cannot afford the equipment, software, or technical support required to record and broadcast meetings in the first place. The storage question only highlights the larger issue: the bill assumes resources that small, volunteer-run districts simply do not have.

We respectfully request that you consider offering an amendment to exempt all CPIDs—or at minimum, CPIDs below a certain size—from these requirements. If an exemption is not possible, we ask for clarification on how long video footage is required to be stored, as this directly affects cost and feasibility.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our communities.

Sincerely,

Roger Bazile

President, Sagefield Crime Prevention & Improvement District