



Testimony

**Senate Bill 309
Senate Ways and Means Committee
March 16, 2023**

The Kansas County Commissioners Association opposes Senate Bill 309. It wouldn't be needed if the Legislature wasn't trying to steal local government revenues... yet again.

A short history lesson:

In 2003 the Legislature breached a decades long contact to share sales tax revenues with cities and counties. But they eliminated the Local Ad Valorem Reduction Fund and the Special City/County Revenue fund.

The Legislature then eliminated the Machinery and Equipment tax and promised to refund the lost revenue. That promise was quickly broken.

Then the Mortgage Revenue Fund was eliminated. And along the way the State kept dumping more and more costs on local government.

Now there is a proposal the steal the local grocery sales tax from cities and counties. The estimated total of all those actions and proposals will exceed \$4-Billion.

You can not keep stealing our revenues and then complain about property taxes. You are leaving us no choice but to increase property taxes when you steal of our other revenue sources.

We don't trust this bill because of so many broken promises in the past.

Local governments were promised a thick steak with a fully loaded baked potato. But what we got was a thin hamburger with no cheese and cold French fries.