



March 15, 2018

To: Chairwoman Tyson and members of the Committee

From: Kim Criner, Chair, Douglas County Food Policy Council

Proponent

Senate Bill 444

Dear Kansas Representatives,

I write today on behalf of the Douglas County Food Policy Council to share our support for Senate Bill 444, concerning the reduction in the state sales tax on food to 3.25%.

As an advisory body to our local elected officials, we are 23 residents bringing diverse perspectives from agriculture, retail, health, and social services. We have conducted hours of community listening over the past two years to inform the creation of our Douglas County Food System Plan, adopted summer 2017. We heard from residents across the county that affordability of healthy food was a great concern and barrier for many.

Based on this input, the Plan includes a policy statement to “Reduce and eliminate the sales tax on food.” In August 2017, the Council prioritized this action statement. The state sales tax on food (6.5%) makes up a majority of the tax collected through grocery purchases. We believe Senate Bill 444 could make a powerful step forward in increasing access to healthy food in our community—and put dollars back into the pockets of the Douglas County families who need it most.

We encourage you to support Senate Bill 444.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Criner". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a triangle.

Kim Criner