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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER: ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

COMMERCE

MEMBER: JOINT COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

March 6th, 2019

Madam Chair and Committee Members:

Good morning! My name is Tom Holland and I am the State Senator for the Kansas Senate 3rd District serving portions of Douglas and Leavenworth counties. I am here today to ask for your support of Senate Bill 197.

Kansas is one of only fourteen states that has a sales tax on food for home preparation and one of only seven states that taxes them at the full sales tax rate; even more concerning is the fact that Kansas has the highest state sales tax on food in the Midwest and is second overall in the entire United States (Federation of Tax Administrators, 2015). SB 197 would reduce the current state sales tax rate on food and food items at 6.5 % down to 5.5% starting July 1st, 2020.

Our constituents are demanding relief from Kansas' burdensome sales tax rates when it comes to putting food on the table for their families, and our state line grocers need a more level playing field! This resolution would give them a voice to weigh in on such critical tax policy.

Sincerely,

Tom Holland

State Senator - 3rd District