

**SOUTHWEST KANSAS COALITION**

**Neutral Testimony  
Before the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation  
Senate Bill No. 13  
January 12, 2021**

Chairperson Tyson and Members of the Senate Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity for the Southwest Kansas Coalition present our written testimony on Senate Bill No. 13.

The Southwest Kansas Coalition collectively represents the cities of Dodge City, Garden City and Liberal and is commonly known as the Southwest Kansas Coalition (SKC). We are a group of communities united in our desire to secure a strong future for the southwest region of Kansas.

As proposed, Senate Bill No. 13 requires additional disclosures on property taxes levied by local governments, sunsets the current property tax lid, prohibits increases in valuation to existing structures related to normal repair, replacement or maintenance and authorizes a county treasurer to enter into payment plans for delinquent taxes.

These measures are reasonable proposals and worthy of this Committee's consideration. However, we are concerned the property tax "transparency" provisions of the bill implement another step in the notification process which ultimately might not be an effective step. Information provided to taxpayers in addition to being transparent, must be meaningful and timely without added burden or cost.

There is a way to provide efficient openness of government and present taxpayers with useful data. We urge the Committee to further review the hard work on transparency being done by interested parties, particularly the League of Kansas Municipalities proposal which we strongly support.

Local governments are successful when they work together and by partnering together with this body, we can achieve the same goal for our taxpayers.

Senate Bill No. 13 needs additional discussion and we encourage you to continue working the stakeholders on an efficient information sharing process that meets the needs of taxpayers.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony to the Committee.

Nick Hernandez  
City Manager, Dodge City

Matt Allen  
City Manager, Garden City

Calvin Burke  
City Manager, Liberal

