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January 20, 2021

Testimony in Support of SB 21- Approving election for sales tax authority for Cherokee County.

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

Honorable Chair- Senator Caryn Tyson  
Vice Chair- Senator Larry Alley  
Ranking Minority- Senator Tom Holland  
Honorable Committee Members

Madam Chair and esteemed members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share my testimony in support of Senate Bill 21.

Passage of this bill is of great importance to Cherokee County. We are facing a potential \$400,000 loss of property tax revenue as a result of the sale of a local medical facility to a nonprofit healthcare group. In an effort to keep the burden of that loss at a minimum to property owners, the sales tax question was presented to our citizens and passed with an overwhelming majority. The revenue generated by this tax will be used to fund our ambulance services in the county, which currently comes solely out of the county general fund.

It was out of concern for the looming large property tax burden the loss of revenue from the hospital would place on our citizens that we moved forward with the sales tax question. With your support, we can continue to properly fund our essential ambulance services without requiring significant property tax increases.

On behalf of the citizens of Cherokee County, I would like to express our gratitude for your willingness to consider SB 21, and the timely manner in which your committee has addressed our issue. I would appreciate your support as this bill moves through the legislative process.

Respectfully,

Lorie Johnson  
Cherokee County Commissioner, District 2