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Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Senate Bill 21
January 20, 2021

Chairman Tyson and members of the committee, I offer testimony in support of SB 21.

Kansas ranks 15th in the nation for the highest property taxes paid as a percentage of housing value. Cherokee County ranks as the 18th lowest for per capita income of Kansas counties.

In real estate sales for 41 years, with my office 2 miles from the MO Stateline and 4 miles from the OK Stateline, I've witnessed firsthand how KS property taxes impede business and residential growth as taxes across either line are significantly lower. Unfortunately, a privately owned hospital in our County was purchased by a nonprofit last year, qualifying it for exemption. That single parcel represented 4% of our County's tax base. Additionally, as for most rural KS counties, the future growth for Cherokee County is dismal, in that projections point to a steady, downward pattern in population, leaving fewer taxpayers to sustain our local governments.

Passage of SB 21 will shift a small amount of the tax burden away from property owners to all taxpayers, including some non County residents passing through.

For those reasons, and more importantly, to honor the will of the citizens of Cherokee County who overwhelmingly voted for the 1/2 cent sales tax, I respectfully request your support of SB 21.

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