



City Administrator Halley Roberson

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation, and Chairwoman Tyson,

My name is Halley Roberson and I am the city Administrator for Oberlin Kansas. I am writing for the express purpose to emphatically communicate my lack of support for SB 87, short titled *Discontinuing apportionment of countywide retailers' sales tax imposed for general purpose between the county and cities located therein*. In a word this legislation would be devastating to municipalities. In addition, it would exacerbate any fragile county and municipality relationships. There is always a need for governing entities to work together. During the era of COVID I am mystified as to why a legislating body would even give credence to legislative policy designed to produce contempt, resentment, and financial hardship between governing entities. It would be refreshing, and is much needed for law makers to implement policy where we can find common ground and leverage all of our combined resources.

In addition to damaged relationships between counties and cities the ripple effect will be felt directly by citizens municipalities serve. Municipalities provide the lion's share of day-to-day services yet already receive a much smaller fraction of this tax revenue. The reduced funding of SB 87 means a reduction or halting of capital improvement or infrastructure projects, reduced law enforcement, fire protection and jeopardizes sanitation efforts of streets and parks, and reducing funding available for economic development and blighted property efforts. In short needs would simply go unmet, and layoffs would be catastrophic.

To continue to list the shortcoming of this bill I fear would only be insulting to the committee. From an analytical standpoint I see the appeal. But I implore the law makers of this committee to remember there are real people on the other side of all the analytics, and matrix showing the shining qualities of this proposed bill. These people are Kansans, served by you, and municipalities gladly partner with you in this service. Municipalities is where your decisions are implemented, and we work within the parameters set by this body to serve the citizens of our state. Please continue to afford municipalities the resources needed to carry out your decisions and serve our communities well.

Sincerely,

Halley Roberson

Halley Roberson
City Administrator

City of Oberlin
1 Morgan Dr.
Oberlin, KS 67749

FAX: (785) 475-2925 | PHONE: (785) 475-2217
EMAIL: hroberson@oberlinkansas.gov