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To: Senator Caryn Tyson and Members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation

Committee

From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

Date: 10 March 2022

Senator Tyson and members of the committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SCR 1620. While we are cognizant of the tax burden placed on individual Kansans and Kansas businesses, we also understand that providing the services expected by the residents of our state comes at a cost.

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce opposes constitutional amendments, public referendums or statutory changes that restrict legislative authority to make decisions regarding taxing or spending. We believe the supermajority vote is unnecessary and fraught with potential unintended consequences.

Artificially restricting the collection of revenue at the state level could inhibit the ability of the state to provide the services expected by the residents of the state. Further, loss of revenue at the state level could force additional spending at the local level.

If supermajorities are going to be required for taxation decisions, then why should they not be applied to every other issue pending before the legislature?

We believe our elected officials are fully capable of making tough decisions that governing requires. We do not believe adding a supermajority threshold is in the best interests of the state and we urge the committee to reject SCR 1620.