

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee  
Senator Les Donovan, Chair  
Testimony for SB316 Property Tax Lid; Effective Date; Exemptions  
James R. Foster (Opponent)  
March 9, 2016

Good morning Senator Donovan and members of the Committee. I am James Foster, a resident of Osage County, Kansas and I am here to voice my opposition to Senate Bill 316.

I will explain why the previous tax lid failed and the reasons that put this tax lid in jeopardy of also failing.

- I voted “no” to a tax increase based on the mandatory wording which was misleading for what the monies were actually needed for. This even negatively affected my job in the private sector.
- Trying to explain to a property tax payer just what portion of the total tax bill goes to their local unit of government is difficult.
- The last true property tax relief came from a court case *Local Units vs. State* that demanded transfer of funds back to the local government from assets those local units were providing services to. It worked for 70 years. If re-established this could make a dramatic difference to the taxpayer.
- The people have the power to vote out anyone who is not serving their best interests.
- Direct democracy rule creates its own set of problems and difficulties.
- When the tax lid fails again there will be two agendas reintroduced for a solution. One is to push consolidation of units of government as an answer. The second is more of a political game.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Committee.