



March 3, 2016

Senator Les Donovan
314 North Rainbow Lake
Wichita, KS 67235

Re: Senate Bill 316

Chairman Les Donovan,

The City of El Dorado, like so many other Kansas communities, relies on ad valorem tax collections to fund core services. When valuations decrease or remain stagnant as the cost of providing services increases, cities must cut their budgets to avoid mill levy increases. If communities are restricted in raising property taxes beyond the inflation rate or limited in utilizing the funds generated by improved valuations, cuts will be made to core services.

The City of El Dorado has been able to provide its citizens with the same level of service with minimal to no change in the mill levy over the last ten years. We have managed this by monitoring expenses, developing alternative methods of providing services and by offering incentives to expand our tax base, all while maintaining a balanced budget.

Kansas communities have historically been led by professional managers who take pride in providing exceptional financial leadership. Adoption of a bill of this nature could potentially be crippling to municipalities who depend on mill levy funds to provide essential services to their community and make it increasingly difficult for these professional managers to react to their changing budgetary needs.

Questions regarding the information included can be sent to the City Clerk, Tabitha Sharp, at cityclerk@eldoks.com or 316-321-9100.

Respectfully,

Herbert E. Llewellyn, Jr.
City Manager
City of El Dorado, Kansas

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