

Approved March 25, 1986  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The meeting was called to order by Senator August "Gus" Bogina at  
Chairperson

11:00 a.m./p.m. on March 17, 1986 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Harder

Committee staff present:

Research Department: Robin Hunn, Ed Ahrens, Paul West, Julian Efird

Revisor's Office: Norman Furse

Committee Office: Judy Bromich, Doris Fager

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Fred Kerr

Harley Duncan, Secretary of Revenue

Bill Fuller, Kansas Farm Bureau

Chip Wheelen, Legislative Policy Group

Beverly Bradley, Kansas Association of Counties

Jean Sagan, Attorney, Board of Regents

Representative Jim Lowther

Harry Stevens, Emporia State University

SB 720 - Statewide reappraisal cost sharing fund, credits and expenditures

Senator F. Kerr read from his written testimony (Attachment A). Following his presentation of that testimony, he added that the Senate Committee amendment would allow the Department of Revenue to purchase on behalf of counties some computer equipment as necessary. He further added that he had visited with Mr. Duncan and he has some concern about the wording of the bill with regard to the commitment of the \$24,000,000.

There were questions from Senator Bogina and Senator Gaines concerning provisions of the bill. Senator Gaines asked about the source of the \$24,000,000. Senator Kerr answered that a 1-cent sales tax increase has been recommended by the Committee on Assessment and Taxation.

Mr. Duncan presented his written testimony (Attachment B). Following his testimony, Senator Bogina explained that there is an appropriation of \$8 million in the Department of Revenue as it left the Senate Ways and Means Committee. He asked, if that bill passes the Legislature, could SB 720 be modified. Mr. Duncan said he feels the funding can be supplied one of two ways. Provisos can be added in the appropriations bills to supplement SB 720. However, if the transfer of \$24 million is made this year, SB 720 is needed.

At Senator Doyen's request, Mr. Duncan explained the proposed computer plans for the reappraisal procedure. He said the intention is to have a series of stand-alone computing capacities at the local level. According to Mr. Duncan, 90 counties can be served with micro-computers; another group, mini-computers; and the top counties, a small main-frame. He indicated his department would like to develop bulk bids and reduce the costs to all counties. The software will be let on state bid and will be uniform throughout.

Mr. Fuller indicated that his group is supporting SB 720 on the basis of a policy statement in its policy book. He then read highlighted material in Attachment C. He further said the Farm Bureau is interested in use value being used as part of the program. He said he was concerned about the cost of the program and feels it is necessary for the counties to have state assistance. He continued by stating that his organization supports some revenue enhancement for this session tied to a program in the school finance plan which would provide \$200 million of property tax relief and free up state

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
room 123-S, Statehouse, at 11:00 a.m./p.m./ on March 17, 1986

SB 720 - Continued

moneys that could be used in a program such as that in SB 720. He suggested the one-cent sales tax increase is a good answer to the revenue needs.

Mr. Wheelen presented his written testimony (Attachment D), and committee members were given the opportunity to question him.

Ms. Bradley presented her written testimony (Attachment E). She added that the computer plan noted by Mr. Duncan has been approved by her association. Senator Gaines asked if the counties and the state are cooperating in the reappraisal problems. Ms. Bradley indicated they are.

Senator Bogina asked staff to determine if an amendment is needed for SB 720 to clarify the transfer of the \$24,000,000. Senator Werts asked why the bill doesn't state that the \$24,000,000 is to be taken from the State General Fund, rather than sales tax revenues. Senator Bogina answered that this is the question which needs to be answered by staff as they determine whether or not there needs to be an amendment.

No action was taken on SB 720.

SB 657 - Kansas Educational Building Fund; transfers of amounts between items of appropriations; Board of Regents and Finance Council guidelines

Ms. Sagan stated that this is one of several bills which will come before the committee where items have been identified which have repeatedly been placed in bills by proviso. She said that SB 658 is also one of those bills. There followed a discussion concerning provisos from appropriations bills passed during the 1985 session of the Legislature.

Mr. Corman indicated that there is sometimes a problem with bids, and that the Finance Council has transferred funds in some instances. He gave as an example an instance where there was building at Kansas State University and at Pittsburg State University, and there was some switching of money to provide proper funding for both. He said the reason for the proposed legislation is that sometimes the provisos are forgotten.

SB 658 - Service Clearing Funds at educational institutions under State Board of Regents

Ms. Sagan repeated that SB 658 places into statute what has formerly been accomplished through proviso. There is no change in existing law--merely codification.

Motion was made by Senator Talkington and seconded by Senator Gaines to report SB 657 and SB 658 favorably. The motion carried by roll call vote.

HB 2791 - Authorizing Board of Regents to dedicate certain property to the City of Emporia for street purposes.

Representative Lowther presented Attachment F, which shows a diagram of the property noted in HB 2791. He then stated that there is a small triangle of land that belongs to the state which the university would like to transfer to the city of Emporia for public use. There were several questions from committee members.

Mr. Stevens presented a proposed amendment (Attachment G) to HB 2791. He explained that the property in question in the attachment was intended to be developed into a conference center. He added that the university would like to sell the property and return the funds to the Student Union Association for use in remodeling the Union.

Answering a question from Senator Bogina, Mr. Stevens said the property is the second lot west of Merchant Street, and the address is 136 West 12th.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
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HB 2791 - Continued

Mr. Stevens explained that the property in question was purchased by the Memorial Union Corporation Board in 1977 by restricted use funds, and was deeded to the state. He said the property would be put up for sealed bids and the funds would be returned to the Memorial Union fund. The selling price would be approximately \$100,000 to \$140,000; and the purchase price was \$80,000.

Motion was made by Senator Feleciano and seconded by Senator Talkington to amend HB 2791 as set out in Attachment G. The motion carried by voice vote.

Motion was made by Senator Johnston and seconded by Senator Feleciano to report HB 2791 as amended favorably for passage. The motion carried by roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman.

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

FRED A. KERR

SENATOR, THIRTY-THIRD DISTRICT

BARBER, COMANCHE, HARPER, KINGMAN, KIOWA,

PRATT, STAFFORD, S. RENO,

W. SUMNER COUNTIES

ROUTE 2

PRATT, KANSAS 67124-9802

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIRMAN ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

MEMBER AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION

ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL

APPORTIONMENT

CHAIRMAN MAJORITY PARTY CAUCUS

TESTIMONY TO SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

March 17, 1986

Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to express my support and the support of the members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee for Senate Bill 720. This bill would set aside \$24 million from the state's fiscal year 1987 revenues for the purpose of helping counties pay for the cost of the reappraisal. The bill provides that the reimbursement to the counties be on a per parcel distribution. It further provides that the appropriations can be made over the next three years. Logically, the \$24 million one-time state revenue expenditure depends on the passage of a tax increase during this legislative session.

I think there are at least two reasons why this procedure would be good policy. First, it would certainly help the counties as they plan for their funding of the reappraisal costs. They would know that this much state funding has been set aside to help them and they could plan accordingly. Secondly, I think there are good reasons for us to make this appropriation out of fiscal year 1987 funds. Since this would be a one-time major appropriation, most or

*S. W + M 3/17/86*

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all of these funds would then be available for other state appropriations in fiscal year 1988 and afterward. You are probably more aware than am I of this need, especially considering the potential of the federal cuts to state government. This amount of revenue would thus be uncommitted for next year and could be used to replace some of those cuts if need be.

Thank you, again, for providing me with this opportunity.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Gus Bogina, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Harley T. Duncan, Secretary  
Kansas Department of Revenue



RE: Senate Bill 720

DATE: March 17, 1986

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today on Senate Bill 720. The Department of Revenue supports the principles embodied in SB 720.

Senate Bill 720 would establish a statewide reappraisal cost sharing fund and transfer \$24 million in state sales tax receipts to that fund during FY 1987. Monies in the fund are to be used to provide the per parcel reimbursements called for in 1985 Senate Bill 164 which established the reappraisal program or to purchase or lease computer equipment and software for reappraisal on behalf of the counties.

As such, SB 720 is quite similar to the budget recommendations of Governor Carlin which called for an appropriation of \$8 million to provide the per parcel reimbursements in FY 1987. (This Committee and the full Senate have approved an \$8 million appropriation for reappraisal cost sharing as part of the Department of Revenue budget.) Both the bill and the Governor's recommendation are based on an assumption that the State will finance 50 percent of the local reappraisal costs which are currently estimated at roughly \$45-50 million statewide. The amendment made by the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee would allow the Department to provide "in-kind" assistance in the form of computer hardware and software to counties requiring such. The amendment reflects the recommendation of the Reappraisal Advisory Council which consists of 14 local officials.

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Successful completion of a quality reappraisal of all real property within the three years allotted to us will require the complete cooperation of all parties involved. Achievement of this cooperation will be enhanced immeasurably if the State makes a significant financial commitment to the reappraisal costs. The reappraisal must be carried out within State guidelines and completion of a quality reappraisal will achieve two state policy goals -- assuring equity among similarly situated taxpayers and aiding school district equalization. For these reasons, it is proper and critical that the State bear a significant portion of the reappraisal costs.

We would be naive to think that the reappraisal will be completed without differences of opinion and difficulties between state and local officials. Our experience to date has shown, however, that the structure established in 1985 Senate Bill 164 along with the quality people involved at both the State and local level can make the reappraisal work. The final piece that will cement these relationships is, in my mind, a financial commitment on the part of the State such as that proposed in the Governor's recommendation and SB 720.

There is one important difference between the Governor's recommendation and SB 720 that I should point out. SB 720 calls for the transfer of \$24 million in State General Fund receipts to the Cost Sharing Fund in FY 1987 with expenditures to occur over the FY 1987-1989 period. The Governor's recommendation envisioned an annual appropriation for the cost sharing. SB 720 insures local governments that the State has made a firm commitment to the reappraisal program. It does, however, require \$16 million more in FY 1987 State General Fund resources than the Governor's recommendations. Moreover, since there is no direction to the State Treasurer as to how to deduct the \$24 million from the sales tax receipts, it will be the first \$24 million received. This could seriously strain State General Fund cash flow in the early months of FY 1987.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you. I would be glad to attempt to answer any questions.

## 1986 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Gerald Lawrence, Chairman ..... Cowley County

Edie Dahlsten, Vice Chairman.... McPherson County

William Pauly ..... Doniphan County

Gerald "Cheese" Marten ..... Osage County

John Gallon ..... Wilson County

Dan Kerschen ..... Sedgwick County

Bill Martin ..... Cloud County

Alan States ..... Phillips County

Hal Judy ..... Reno County

Robin Jennison ..... Lane County

Randy Loder.....Finney County

Bill Patmon ..... Sheridan County

# Kansas Farm Bureau Resolutions 1986



# **Kansas Farm Bureau**

## **Resolutions 1986**

### **State Issues**

Adopted by the Voting Delegates Representing 105 County Farm Bureaus at the 67th Annual Meeting of Kansas Farm Bureau in Wichita, November 26, 1985.

## Status of Previous Resolutions

Kansas Farm Bureau policies are subject to review at any meeting of the voting delegates. It is our policy to keep our resolutions as current as possible without specifically restating all details of continuing policies every year. To this end, the Resolutions Committee shall develop comprehensive policy statements on various subjects as the need arises, and shall present shorter statements for the consideration of the voting delegates in intervening years.

The resolutions adopted at the four previous Annual Meetings are hereby reaffirmed, except insofar as they have been modified or supplemented by later resolutions, including those adopted at this, the 67th Annual Meeting. All other resolutions shall be deemed to have lapsed except insofar as the Board of Directors may specifically find that such a prior resolution provides the only basis for action on a current problem. In any instance where the Board finds it necessary to reinstate a lapsed resolution, it shall bring this fact to the attention of the Resolutions Committee and the voting delegates for appropriate action at the next Annual Meeting.

## AGRICULTURE

### A Voice for Agriculture

The resolutions and policy guidelines of our organization are determined by farmers and ranchers. Farm Bureau will speak out for farmers and ranchers at every opportunity, giving voice to the concerns of agricultural producers.

### Farmer Unity

We commend our President and Board of Directors for the efforts that have been made during the past year to promote understanding and cooperation with other farm organizations. We recognize that more than one organization is needed to give expression to the diverse opinions of individual farmers. However, on many basic principles most farmers can agree. We will give our full support to our President and Directors in seeking opportunities to meet with other farm organizations to determine areas of agreement and to work with other organizations in achieving common objectives. This effort should also be encouraged on a county level.

## Agricultural Chemicals

We will support reasonable regulation of the use of agricultural chemicals to assure adequate standards of public health. We will oppose regulations which are proposed as a result of mass hysteria and are not based on sound judgment and scientific knowledge.

No governmental agency should have the authority to ban, or continue the ban on, the manufacture or use of any agricultural chemical unless there is conclusive scientific proof that such use is detrimental to society.

We believe procedures should be developed so that some chemicals now banned from regular use can, **in an emergency**, be used by registered, certified applicators to control agricultural pest infestations.

We urge continued funding for research programs which could lead to eradication of those insects and pests that are particularly damaging to agricultural production.

## Agricultural Commodity Storage

We commend the Legislature for approving legislation requiring grain warehousemen to inform sellers that sales pursuant to deferred payment or delayed pricing provisions are not protected by the surety bond, thus creating a risk. We urge farmers to become informed as to the payment risk involved when delivering or contracting grain to feedlots since their grain business is not licensed, bonded or regulated.

We continue to support licensing and bonding of all commercial elevators and grain warehouses in Kansas. We recommend increasing inspections to a minimum of two each year of licensed warehouses.

We recommend and will support legislation to require grain dealers and grain brokerage firms to be bonded or otherwise provide proof of financial responsibility.

When a grain warehouse failure occurs, we believe that when a check has been issued for payment of grain within 14 days of the declared insolvency, and if the check has not cleared the bank, the party to whom the check was issued should be considered eligible for a share of the bond.

## **Agricultural Credit**

Farmers and ranchers need a variety of credit facilities to finance operating and ownership expenses. In these difficult times neither farmers nor lenders will succeed by themselves if the other fails. We need credit programs that are mutually beneficial for farmers and lenders, programs that will assist farmers and ranchers to maintain viable operations, and programs that will give lenders sufficient latitude to work with producers who have credit or debt difficulties.

Special programs should be designed at federal and state levels to specifically deal with credit and financing problems of young farmers and ranchers who are trying to get established.

Commercial banks face difficulties in continuing to work with many agricultural borrowers. We support programs which will assist banks in providing service to rural communities in Kansas. We believe commercial banking institutions should have a longer time to write off agricultural loan losses. They should also be given incentives to participate in interest buy-down proposals.

In order to help maintain the viability and vitality of rural communities in Kansas, we support legislation to permit a bank in Kansas to operate a facility in a community with only one bank **if** that one bank is found to be insolvent, or outside support would keep it solvent and prevent a collapse. Preference to operate a facility in a one-bank town whose bank has failed or is in danger of failure should be given to a bank in the same county or geographic region.

## **Commodity Commissions and International Grains Program**

The primary purpose of the wheat, corn, grain sorghum and soybean commissions is to promote the use of and to develop markets for those commodities. The commodity commissions are providing some assistance to Kansas State University for the financing and operation of the International Grains Program.

We most strongly urge all of the commodity commissions to voluntarily increase their financial contributions to the IGP. We further recommend the Kansas Legislature increase appropriations to the IGP from State General Fund monies to enhance the promotion, market development and utilization of our Kansas grains.

## **Commodity Pricing Legislation**

Prices farmers receive for their grains and other commodities are too low. Legislated minimum commodity prices, if established by one state or several states, would not be practical and should not be promoted. One state placing a minimum price on a commodity that is grown worldwide and traded internationally will not be effective in raising the price of that commodity for Kansas farmers.

We will work through our organization and commodity groups to develop and enhance marketing strategies and opportunities.

## **Commodity Storage Security**

The economic repercussions from grain elevator bankruptcies are devastating for the communities involved even though Kansas, when compared to other states, has experienced relatively few failures. It is projected that one recent grain elevator failure in northeast Kansas alone will result in total losses greater than the combined losses of all grain warehouse failures in Kansas since 1967. The Kansas Legislature and a Special Task Force have conducted extensive hearings and made numerous recommendations. In attempts to provide additional protection for grain producers, new laws were passed by the 1983 and 1985 Sessions of the Legislature.

If substantial additional protection is to be provided, a grain producer security fund (indemnity fund) should be established. In an effort to maximize effectiveness and acceptance of a fund, we recommend these features:

1. Grain producers and grain warehouse operators should contribute to the fund;
2. The fund should be in-addition-to the bond requirements for grain warehouses;
3. Federal and state warehouses should be required to participate;
4. Contributions shall be used to maintain the fund at \$10 million;
5. All interest earned on the balance in the fund should be credited to the fund;
6. The fund should cover not less than 75 percent nor more than 90 percent of the losses; and
7. The state should initially provide meaningful "start-up" funding to assure immediate protection for grain producers.

## **Corporate Farm Law**

The Legislature rewrote the Kansas Corporate Farm Law in 1981. Attempts may be made to expand the law to permit livestock breeding operations and allow corporate buy-outs of land from farmers who are struggling with excessive debt loads. We oppose any additional exemptions to the current Kansas Corporate Farm Law.

## **Ethanol Production**

Ethanol production has a promising future for grain consumption and grain pricing. We strongly support ethanol production and encourage:

1. Establishment of research projects on wet stillage feeding and feed trials, as well as utilization of other by-products of the ethanol production process;
2. Consumer promotion and education concerning ethanol use;
3. A federal tax credit, equal to the nine-cent federal motor fuel (gasoline) tax, for ethanol used in motor fuel; and
4. Continuation of the Kansas motor fuels tax exemption for ethanol until a federal tax credit program is in effect.

## **Fence Laws**

There are inconsistencies and conflicting philosophies in the numerous fence laws scattered throughout the Kansas statute books. We believe there is a need for a thorough, careful analysis in order to update, clarify and consolidate our fence laws. We support the "fence-in" policy which requires farmers and ranchers to confine their livestock. We will support legislation which:

1. Prevents any increased liability for owners of land or livestock;
2. Avoids any burden of modifying existing fences or requiring construction of new fences; and
3. Continues the responsibility of the county commissioners in each county to serve as "fence viewers" for settling disputes regarding fences.

## **Foreign Ownership of Agricultural Land**

Ownership or long-term lease of agricultural land and commercial feedlots by individual foreign nationals who are not in the process of becoming U.S. citizens should be prohibited. We will oppose ownership of agricultural land and commercial feedlots by foreign national corporations.

Federal tax laws, and provisions of treaties to which the United States is a party, should assure that tax treatment of landowners is uniformly applicable. We are opposed to preferential tax treatment for foreign landowners or those foreigners who lease, rent, or have in any manner invested in our agricultural land.

## **Grain Moisture Testers**

We recommend and will support legislation to require the State Board of Agriculture to establish rules, regulations, specifications and standards for inspection of moisture testing devices used in commerce in the State of Kansas.

## **Kansas Brand Laws**

We encourage all cattle owners to obtain and use registered brands, to keep a regular count of their livestock, and report all losses to local law enforcement officials.

For the protection of individual cattle owners we favor a statewide brand inspection system which makes it mandatory that cattle be inspected for brands at licensed public sales, feedlots and packing plants.

Theft of livestock should be considered a Class D felony.

## **Labeling**

We support proper labeling of foods, fibers, and other agricultural products.

We oppose the use of the names of natural farm products on substitutes for such natural foods.

All products offered to the public in imitation of, or as a substitute for, or in the adulteration of, any farm product or any item processed from a farm product should be labeled to include the names of all ingredients and, where labeled "home grown" or "native," the point of origin.

## **Meat and Poultry Inspection Program**

We support the state-administered Meat and Poultry Inspection Program.

We believe state-inspected meat should be allowed to move in interstate commerce. We support legislation to require labeling of imported meat and poultry, and the labeling of such imports in processed products, as to country of origin.

## **Noxious Weeds**

Noxious weed eradication should have a high priority with state government and with each of our 105 counties. Enforcement should include increased penalties for violation of the law.

Governmental agencies should be prohibited from sowing any cover crop on public rights-of-way that contains any noxious weed seed or restricted weed seed in excess of tolerances allowed in the Kansas Seed Act. Mulching materials used on public rights-of-way should be free of noxious weeds and noxious weed seed.

Landowners and tenants should be authorized to conduct timely spraying and mowing to control noxious and other objectionable weeds and grasses on rights-of-way adjacent to their own land.

## **Predator Control**

We believe livestock producers should have the option of using, on privately-owned land, all reasonable means of controlling all predators, including predatory dogs.

The coyote is a predatory animal and we are opposed to proposals to designate this predator as a fur bearing animal. Hunting, trapping, or otherwise taking coyotes should be allowed at all times other than by firearms during firearm deer season.

## **State Board of Agriculture**

The present Kansas method of electing a State Board of Agriculture, which board employs the administrative head of the State Department of Agriculture, is unique among the states. We believe a close study of the history of the Department of Agriculture in Kansas will reveal that agriculture, and indeed the whole state,

has been well served because the Department has never been placed in a partisan political position. As that reason, we will support a continuation of the present system.

## **Weights and Measures**

We commend the 1985 Legislature for passage of a comprehensive testing program for large-capacity scales.

We will support adequate state appropriations for the Weights and Measures Division of the State Board of Agriculture to ensure performance checks on scale service companies and spot checks of large-capacity scales across the state.

## **ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION**

### **Industrial Revenue Bond Financing and In-Lieu-Of Taxes**

We believe Industrial Revenue Bond financing is a positive step for economic, industrial and business, and community development.

We will support legislation to require an in-lieu-of tax payment on property that is developed through the use of Industrial Revenue Bond financing. In-lieu-of tax payment should be equal to the tax money required if the property was on the tax rolls. We further believe that the valuation of IRB-property should be included in the total valuation of the school district in which such property is situated, and counted as part of such district's wealth.

### **Local Sales Tax Situs**

We will support an amendment to the local retailer's sales tax statute as it relates to motor vehicles. The local sales tax on motor vehicles should be collected by the county treasurer at the time of registration of the vehicle, and situs for the local sales tax should be the residence or business location of the registrant.

## Mortgage Registration Tax

Farming is a very capital intensive business. Due to the critical financial conditions in agriculture, and the fact a great deal of refinancing is taking place, the mortgage registration tax can be a burdensome and often unexpected expense.

Borrowers should not be required to pay the mortgage registration tax a second time when they are refinancing the same real estate even though they are changing lenders.

Federal Land Banks and Farmers Home Administration borrowers should continue to be exempt from the tax.

## Property Classification

The Kansas Legislature in 1985 adopted, by the required two-thirds majority, a proposal to amend the Finance and Taxation Article (Art. 11) of the Kansas Constitution to provide limited classification of real and personal property for assessment and taxation purposes. The proposed amendment was designed to ensure against an unfair shift of taxes, and to provide for equitable taxation within and among the various classes of property. We supported the development and adoption of this appropriate, limited classification proposal.

We **strongly urge** the voters in Kansas to **SUPPORT** and **vote YES** on the property classification amendment when it is submitted to electors at the general election in November, 1986.

## Reappraisal, Assessment and Taxation

We commend the 1985 Legislature for the passage of legislation mandating a program of statewide reappraisal of real property.

Reappraisal began July 1, 1985, and is to be completed in all counties January 1, 1989. The reappraisal legislation has language to implement the 1976 constitutional amendment on use-value appraisal and provides that agricultural land shall be appraised on the basis of its agricultural income or productivity attributable to the capability of the land in its current usage under a degree of management reflecting median production levels.

We urge all county Farm Bureaus to work with the county appraiser to achieve a fair and equitable appraisal within the county and between counties.

We urge the Legislature to set definite rules and guidelines to administer the reappraisal and to provide adequate and equitable funds for its implementation.

## State Budget, Spending and Taxation

State expenditures in a fiscal year should never exceed projected revenue receipts for that fiscal year.

Zero-base budgeting is essential to fiscal planning and should be required for all state agencies as well as all local units of government.

Across-the-board percentage reductions in state agency funding is appropriate when revenues and estimated receipts are low. The State General Fund should have adequate balances or reserves. Before any additional tax is imposed the Legislature and the Governor should closely examine all programs to eliminate unnecessary spending.

## State and Local Fiscal Needs

It is time in Kansas to write a basic tax policy of taxing people for services to people and taxing property for services to property.

## State Sales Tax

Because all citizens are consumers of food and are uniformly taxed on the food they purchase, we will oppose legislation to exempt food from the state sales tax.

## COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

### Investment Authority of Local Governments

The investment authority of local units of government is limited to those moneys not immediately required for the purposes for which they were collected. We support that limitation. We are opposed to permitting local unit public funds deposits in branches of savings and loan associations and detached auxiliary banking facilities.

## CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### Acquired Mineral Interests

The practice by Federal Land Bank Associations of retaining one-half or **any** portion of the mineral rights of acquired properties when such properties are resold is not a sound or reasonable policy for the FLBA. This practice:

1. Diminishes the true value of land sold with mineral interests severed; and
2. Is speculative in nature.

We will support legislation to end this practice. We believe legislation should provide for an orderly divestiture of mineral interests by FLBAs.

### Environmental Standards

We will oppose legislation which would permit harassment of agricultural producers because of unsubstantiated allegations regarding damage or probable damage to the land, water or air. We believe no legislation should be enacted, nor should an environmental regulation be promulgated, unless it is based on factual information and scientific knowledge.

We recommend to the State Legislature that chemical air toxic emission levels be established in the State of Kansas.

### Hazardous Waste Disposal

Storage, identification, packaging, transportation, and disposal of hazardous waste materials must be adequately researched and developed to insure safety for Kansas citizens and the natural resources of this state.

We believe the Governor and the Kansas Legislature working cooperatively, in order to provide for safe storage and disposal of hazardous wastes, should assure that:

1. Kansas does not become a dumping ground for waste materials coming from other **states or nations**;
2. Only qualified, technically-competent persons, corporations, or entities are granted authority to develop a site or sites for disposal or storage of radioactive or other hazardous wastes, with

such entity being fully liable for safe operation of such site or sites; and

3. There is adequate protection against escape, dispersion or erosion of hazardous waste into the soil and waters surrounding any disposal site.

### Hunting and Fishing Regulations

We believe the hunting season for upland game birds should be reduced in length with the season ending the first week in January.

We urge enactment of legislation requiring those who hunt and fish to possess written permission, signed by the landowner or operator, stating the days hunting or fishing is permitted, and giving a description and location of land on which permission is granted. The landowner or operator should be exempt from liability for accidents regardless of written permission or not. All hunting and fishing licenses issued by the Fish and Game Commission should include the printed statement, "Written permission must be obtained from landowner, tenant or other agent."

We urge the Fish and Game Commission to increase the number of deer and antelope firearms and bow and arrow permits granted each year. We believe each farmer, whether landowner or tenant, who requests a deer or antelope permit should receive one for hunting on his own land or that on which he is tenant or operator, and such special "landowner" permit should be issued at no cost to the farmer in all 105 counties.

We ask that legislation be enacted that would require the Fish and Game Commission to conduct deer population control measures or pay for damages upon petition from landowners and/or operators.

We urge the Kansas Fish and Game Commission to establish a toll-free telephone number to be used by farmers and other citizens to report wildlife damage to crops and other property.

### Land Use Planning

We oppose legislation which would authorize or permit federal agencies to direct management decisions in the field of land utilization. Those who own or operate land should have the major responsibility for its development.

We urge farmers to become involved in planning development of zoning ordinances to prevent undesirable land use patterns. We favor voluntary land use authorities formed for specific periods of time, in which farming may be designated as the priority use and other users may remain in, or move into these zones without recourse to abate the practices which are common to farming.

### **Landowners' Rights**

Landowners' rights must be safeguarded and protected. Equitable payment must be made for any land, in any "taking," or "partial taking" by eminent domain power. We believe eminent domain procedures should include development of an agricultural impact statement, complete with public hearing, appeal, and a determination of compensation for disruption of normal farming practices.

We believe safeguards should be developed for landowners to protect against costs involved in bringing an abstract up-to-date when these costs are the result of transactions generated or incurred by a gas or oil company.

Some groups have proposed that the public be given free public access to private property adjacent to river and stream beds. We will strongly oppose any such proposal and will likewise oppose the addition of any rivers or streams in the category of "navigable streams."

### **Natural Gas**

We recognize the importance of natural gas to Kansas agriculture for fertilizer production, feed processing, grain drying, irrigation, and related agricultural industries.

There is a great deal of misinformation regarding the results of natural gas deregulation on agricultural producers and consumers.

We support legislation which promotes competition while recognizing the need to protect the agricultural consumer from monopolistic situations without rate review.

We oppose legislation which would result in dramatic price changes to agricultural producers.

Infill drilling, as proposed for the Hugoton Field, poses serious threats to irrigated agriculture without proper safeguards to insure reasonably priced supplies for agriculture.

### **Prairie National Park**

We oppose creation of a Tallgrass Prairie National Park on privately-owned land. We recommend that the Kansas Legislature consider the practicability of giving to the appropriate state agency the authority to provide adequate rest areas, observation towers and other maintained facilities for the benefit and pleasure of travelers along the route that has been designated as the "Prairie Parkway," and along other highways which traverse our native grassland.

### **Soil and Water Conservation**

We believe the owners and operators of agricultural land can best be served by a voluntary approach to soil conservation using federal and state cost-sharing funds as an incentive for developing and maintaining farm plans, and constructing and maintaining soil and water conservation structures. We ask the Kansas Legislature to adequately fund the state share of cost-sharing programs.

Pipeline companies, and electric and telephone utilities, should be required to preserve and replace top soil, and to reseed those portions of native grass pastures disturbed during construction of underground facility projects.

### **State Water Agencies**

Water is one of our most precious and important natural resources. All segments of our population and all component parts of our economy require an adequate supply of water.

We will continue to oppose changes in Kansas water laws that would result in major reorganization of state water agencies. We believe that a separation of powers and a system of checks and balances in the administration of water programs gives Kansans a better result than any further consolidation would produce.



## **State Water Policy**

We support development of a State Water Plan for Kansas. We believe the Kansas Water Authority should have responsibility for development of the State Water Plan. The Authority should be the agency for water management in Kansas.

The State Water Plan should promote conservation of water by all users. It should also contain far-sighted, well-conceived, and carefully controlled use of international, interstate, and intrastate transfers of water to benefit agricultural producers and all other Kansans.

We urge the KWA to incorporate into the State Water Plan a strong conservation ethic, and methodology for recycling water to extend the life of this limited resource.

## **Water Districts**

We recognize the benefits of Rural Water Districts. Those benefits should be assured by legislation and regulations that guarantee and protect water rights for original rural water district patrons.

We will support legislation—both on a national and state level—that will make funds available for grants to be used in the construction of Rural Water Districts.

We will support legislation—both on a national and state level—that will finance, through federal funds (Farmers Home Administration), Rural Water Districts from watershed structures.

## **Water Management in Kansas**

Kansas farmers and ranchers recognize the importance of securing a Kansas water right as provided by law.

We support the Kansas Ground Water Management District Act, as amended in the 1978 Session of the Kansas Legislature, which gives local water users a voice in determining the use of ground water. Irrigation wells within a GWMD should not be subject to "user fees."

We encourage our members to participate in the organization and management of Ground Water Management Districts. Through participation they will be in a position to have an effective voice in calling for any needed changes, additions or deletions to the Ground Water Management District Act.

## **Water Quality Standards**

We recognize the need for reasonable standards to protect and maintain the quality of our surface waters and ground water. We are not convinced that establishment of "minimum desirable streamflows" is the solution to water quality problems. We believe additional study of the economic and environmental impact of legislation or regulation requiring minimum streamflow is necessary. We oppose additional minimum streamflow designations until such studies are completed.

We urge the Legislature to make adequate appropriation of funds, to assure that the agency or agencies responsible for issuance of well drilling permits and the maintenance of water quality are enforcing existing statutes and regulations relating to salt water disposal and proper plugging of dry holes.

The Kansas Corporation Commission and the Department of Health and Environment should, prior to giving approval for disposal of salt brines, determine that the proposed method of disposal will assure that there will be no contamination of any fresh water. No well drilled on leased property should be used for disposal of salt water from wells on other property without consent from and compensation to the landowner. The power of eminent domain should NOT be granted for the purpose of salt brine disposal.

We ask that legislation be enacted to require that surface pipes shall be set to a depth sufficient to protect all fresh water formations from contamination.

## **Watershed Programs**

There are many urgently needed watershed structures yet to be built in Kansas. We request that funding for those structures, furnished by the state and supervised by the State Conservation Commission, be increased to facilitate and encourage this statewide program.

In order to expedite planning and construction of watersheds, we urge the Kansas Legislature to consider permissive legislation authorizing the levy of one mill on the valuation of potential watershed areas for a period no longer than two years for the purpose of creating a trust fund, with the annual interest earned from such trust fund to be used for planning expenses involved in new watershed projects.

## Zoning

We oppose any extension of the power of cities to zone beyond their borders until there has been a thorough legislative study of this subject. Specifically, we oppose any change in the present authority of city and county zoning commissions, with the exception that no county zoning shall be implemented without a referendum of the people affected.

## EDUCATION

### Agriculture in the Classroom

We believe today's young people, who will be tomorrow's decision makers, must have an opportunity to understand agriculture and its relationship to the total economy. We support the concept of teaching the importance of agriculture through the teaching of math, science, history, economics, and business courses within existing school curricula in Grades K-12.

We support "Ag. in the Classroom," and we commend the Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom for its efforts on behalf of agriculture.

### Basic Education Requirements

It is our belief that citizens of Kansas and the Kansas Legislature should conduct in-depth examinations of the operation, the goals and objectives of our public schools. In an effort to optimize educational opportunities for our children at an affordable cost, we propose:

- \* Continuation of competency testing of students in Kansas schools;
- \* An adequately increased salary for classroom teachers;
- \* A more efficient use of classroom assistants and volunteers;
- \* A reduction in the number of administrative personnel employed by USDs;
- \* Stringent requirements for graduation from colleges and universities training our teachers;
- \* Curtailing, or limiting to after the regular school day, extra-curricular activities;
- \* More efficient use of classroom instructional hours within the present 180 days or 1,080 hours of school;

- \* Encourage local public support for more diligent effort by local school boards to control costs.
- \* Spending and budget lids on USDs;
- \* Examination of teachers certification requirements; and
- \* An examination of the organizational structure, staffing patterns, budgeting and operation of Unified School Districts to determine opportunities for efficiency and economy.

### CPR Training

Applying CPR—Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation—saves countless lives every year. We ask the State Board of Education to encourage all school districts to incorporate voluntary CPR training into the public high school curriculums.

### Kansas State University

We believe that agriculture must be the highest priority at Kansas State University. We commend the Legislature and KSU for the vital contributions which have benefited all segments of society through teaching, research and the Cooperative Extension Service.

We encourage close cooperation between county Farm Bureaus and county Extension Councils in order that beneficial services to rural families, and the excellent relationships that have been established over the years, may be continued in a most effective way.

We request adequate funding for the farm assistance program operated cooperatively by the Extension Service and the State Board of Agriculture. Especially during this critical time in agriculture, we recognize the need for farm families to have access to meaningful management, counseling and support programs.

We urge higher priority and increased appropriations for both facilities and staffing for the Departments of Agronomy and Animal Sciences and Industry.

We strongly recommend expanding the International Grains Program to enhance market development and exports for Kansas grain producers.

We support establishment of an International Meats Research and Export Trade Center at Kansas State University which will enhance export opportunities.

We believe the Kansas Board of Regents should authorize, and the Kansas Legislature should provide funding for, development at KSU of an intensive international marketing and export curriculum to train students in foreign trade.

Kansas has an outstanding College of Veterinary Medicine located at Kansas State University, Manhattan. In order to maintain the excellence of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and to provide for the stated needs of the College to enhance veterinary teaching, research and service, we urge the Governor and the Kansas Legislature to fully fund the budget of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

An opportunity exists to broaden and strengthen the research and teaching of the College of Veterinary Medicine in cooperation and partnership with the State of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, and the Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center, Nebraska. We encourage development of this partnership. We urge the Governor of Kansas, the Kansas Legislature and the Board of Regents to support and foster with their counterparts in Nebraska creation of a Regional College of Veterinary Medicine which we believe would be cost-effective and mutually beneficial to agricultural producers, the animal industries, and the citizens of both states.

### **Postsecondary Education**

We believe educational and vocational-training needs have been unfulfilled for many in our state due to fragmented post-secondary programs. We believe there are many opportunities to coordinate vocational, occupational, academic and college-preparatory programs within our community colleges. These individual components of post-secondary education should have equal status.

We believe mergers, within reasonable geographic guidelines, of existing area vocational-technical schools and community junior colleges would be in the best interest of students and the taxpaying public. We would support implementing legislation to achieve such mergers. The resulting institutions should, we believe, be considered an integral part of our system of higher education. We believe the state should then assume responsibility for financing these institutions through non-property tax revenues.

### **School Finance**

We believe the Kansas Legislature should develop a school finance formula to assist in the delivery of and funding for a "basic education" for every child enrolled in public schools in each unified school district in the state.

We continue to believe that there should be minimal reliance on the property tax for support of our elementary and secondary schools. As long as property is used as a measure of wealth, then intangible property should be a part of such measurement of wealth.

We support legislation to create a school district income tax to be collected by the state from every resident individual and returned by the state to the school district of residence of the individual taxpayer.

We will support legislation to increase the state sales tax by one cent, PROVIDED the revenues from such increase are used for financing elementary and secondary schools and to reduce property taxes now levied for school finance.

State General Fund revenues should be enhanced for school finance purposes by increasing the rates of income and privilege taxes imposed on corporations, financial institutions, insurance companies, and non-resident individuals.

We believe that federally and state-mandated programs should be fully funded by the federal or state government, whichever mandates a given program.

We have opposed in the past, and we will continue to oppose efforts to establish a statewide property tax levy.

### **Teacher-School Board Relations**

We believe the authority of locally-elected boards of education should be recognized, supported and maintained. We cannot support legislation which would erode the legal authority of school boards. We will oppose legislation which requires a school board to yield its authority to a mediator, an arbitrator or disinterested third party. We are opposed to teacher-tenure.

## **Vocational Education**

We will continue to give our strong support to vocational education programs which meet demonstrated needs and which lead to some employable skill. We believe it is the responsibility of the state, through assurance of course offerings and non-property tax financial support, to provide quality vocational education programs. We recommend the state provide additional financial support for vocational programs at the secondary level.

Agriculture is the firm foundation for the Kansas economy. We believe there continues to be a need for vocational training in agriculture, agri-business, and farm mechanics. We urge adequate vocational training programs to meet these needs.

The State Board of Education should be directed by the Legislature to maintain a strong program of vocational agricultural education in our secondary schools. We believe an Advisory Council for Vocational Agriculture Education should be created to examine and make recommendations to the State Board of Education on curriculum, course offerings, vocational-agriculture teacher qualifications and certification in order to more adequately meet the needs of Kansas agriculture.

### **Washburn University**

On the basis of current information and the present financial condition of the State of Kansas, we oppose the admission of Washburn University to the Kansas Board of Regents System.

## **GOVERNMENT**

### **Annexation**

We commend the Legislature for undertaking a review and comprehensive study of annexation laws in Kansas. We believe enactment of appropriate legislation in the 1986 Session would correct many of the inequities which have become apparent under current statutes.

Indiscriminate annexation of agricultural areas into cities has proven to be most unfair to a great number of rural property owners engaged in agriculture.

We believe that amendments to our annexation statutes should provide for:

1. Reduction from 55 acres to 10 acres the amount of agricultural land that may be annexed without the owner's consent;
2. Cities to hold public hearings within the area proposed to be annexed. At such hearings the cities shall have a land development plan, timetable, and cost estimate of proposed services such as water, sewer, electrical, and gas services;
3. City maintenance of all existing public facilities and services during the development stage;
4. Landowner-initiated deannexation of annexed land when the city fails to provide major municipal services or maintain existing facilities and services; and
5. The opportunity for residents of the proposed annexed area to present petitions to the city opposing their annexation into the city. If the petitions contain the names of 25% of the residents of the area, the city shall provide for a vote within the proposed annexed area to determine if the proposed annexation will become effective.

### **Capital Punishment**

We believe capital punishment to be a deterrent to violent crime. Capital punishment should be reinstated in Kansas and the Kansas law should be in keeping with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling and guidelines for imposition of capital punishment. We support the right of Kansas citizens to vote on a constitutional amendment allowing capital punishment.

### **Citizen Participation**

Citizen participation in government is the very foundation and strength of our form of government in this state and nation. The Kansas Legislature and the Congress of the United States should be composed of representatives from all walks of life. We deplore the trend toward a professional, full-time Legislature and Congress.

From time to time citizens are asked to serve on a board, committee, commission or task force created by the Legislature, the Governor, the Congress, or the President. Such service should carry with it for lay citizens the same rights to participation, discussion, deliberation and voting as with other elected or appointed members of such board, committee, commission or task force.

### **District of Columbia Representation**

We will vigorously oppose ratification by the State of Kansas of the proposed constitutional amendment to provide House and Senate seats for the District of Columbia.

### **Drug Abuse and the Drinking Driver**

We strongly support actions that will bring about a solution to the problems of drug abuse and the drinking driver in Kansas and across the nation.

There are no easy solutions to this problem, but three issues need to be addressed:

1. **Education.** All citizens need to be informed on the effects of alcohol and drug abuse in regard to the operation of a motor vehicle. Education for children should commence in Kindergarten and be continued through Grade 12. Funding for such alcohol and drug abuse education should be provided by the state or federal government from taxes on alcohol and related industries.
2. **Enforcement.** Kansas statutes need to be strengthened and enforced so violators will be subject to all provisions of the law if they are found guilty.
3. **Rehabilitation.** An effective rehabilitation program needs to be implemented so the alcohol or drug abuser may be treated and rehabilitated.

The operation of a motor vehicle on our streets, roads and highways carries a large responsibility. Driving is not a right but a privilege that must be continually earned.

### **Fish and Game Commission**

We support the present statutory requirements for appointment to the Fish and Game Commission. We believe consideration should be given to appointments of bona fide farmers to the Commission.

We favor establishment of a land-leasing policy giving first-choice farm tenancy privileges to the original landowner. Should the original landowner not desire to lease Fish and Game property, a uniform procedure for bid-basis land leasing should prevail through all Fish and Game service regions.

We are opposed to the Fish and Game Commission having the authority to use the power of eminent domain.

We believe the Kansas Fish and Game Commission should pay property taxes, or make an in-lieu-of tax payment to the county and school districts in which Fish and Game property is located.

We recommend that the Fish and Game Commission conduct a study to determine if brucellosis, other livestock diseases, and noxious weeds are transmitted by deer, other wildlife, and livestock.

### **Political Campaign Financing**

We are opposed to the use of public funds for financing political campaigns at any level of government.

We believe personal contributions to political campaigns should be encouraged. There should be reasonable limits placed on the amount of money any one person, business, corporation, labor union, association or political action committee may contribute to any one candidate.

We believe political campaigns have become far too costly and would, therefore, support a limitation on the time allowed for conducting campaigns in order to reduce the amount of money spent.

### **Regulatory Reform**

We urge the legislative branch of government, at the state level and at the national level, to legislate clearly and to legislate by statute. We deplore legislation by administrative regulation.

## **Trespass and Vandalism**

We believe that trespassing on and vandalism of private property is of growing concern to Kansas farmers. Under present laws, it is difficult to successfully prosecute individuals who intentionally trespass on privately-held ground. We recommend that the Legislature strengthen the statutes concerning trespass and vandalism and increase the penalties for these offenses.

We urge county Farm Bureaus to become actively involved in working with local law enforcement officials to aggressively enforce trespass laws.

## **Uniform Commercial Code**

We believe the section of the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) pertaining to the agricultural exemption should be amended to provide protection for the producer, the agricultural lender and the purchaser of agricultural products.

## **Voter Registration**

We are strongly opposed to election-day voter registration. We are equally opposed to proposals which seek to give organizations the right to act for, or on behalf of, individuals in the registration process.

## **Voting**

We believe that in local, state, or national elections, military personnel, and college students whose permanent address or home of record coincides with that of the student's parents, should vote in the community of such permanent address or home of record.

We are strongly opposed to any proposal to permit voting by mail in national or state elections, except for absentee ballots.

Electors in Kansas have an opportunity to vote in statewide elections for four constitutionally prescribed executive branch officers and for two statutorily prescribed officials. We support the right of Kansans to vote for candidates for all these offices. We will oppose legislation or executive action which would eliminate that voting opportunity.

Election laws regarding poll watchers should be strictly enforced.

## **LABOR AND INDUSTRY**

### **Public Project Wages**

The Kansas Farm Bureau supports repeal of the Davis-Bacon Act at the federal level of government. We also believe the Kansas statutes requiring payment of prevailing wages on public works projects are inflationary and should be repealed.

### **Right-to-Work**

We reaffirm our strong support for the "right-to-work" concept. We will oppose the repeal of legislation implementing the "right-to-work" in Kansas, and we will vigorously oppose the repeal of Section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act.

### **Unemployment Compensation**

We favor an immediate update and increase in the threshold exemption for agriculture in the Unemployment Compensation Act. Additionally, we support a periodic update of the agricultural exemption to reflect the inflation that has occurred over recent years.

### **Workers' Compensation**

We continue to support exemption for agriculture from the industrially-oriented Workers' Compensation Act. We will oppose removal of the exemption, or any attempt to bring agricultural workers under that Act.

An agricultural workers' compensation plan, if one is devised after adequate study, should provide a payroll threshold of \$50,000 or such amount as would cover full-time, nonfamily-member employees and the occasional part-time labor so necessary in the family farming operations of Kansas.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE**

### **Emergency Aid**

We would encourage the Kansas Legislature to amend that portion of Kansas Statutes referred to as the Good Samaritan Law. It is important that every citizen making a good faith effort to render emergency care and assistance at the scene of an accident be exempt from civil damages.

### **Health Care Cost Control**

Spiraling health care costs warrant serious consideration by private citizens and health care professionals alike. Government mandated cost-containment legislation will not provide the best answer to this dilemma. We continue to support voluntary leadership in the area of health care cost control. Additional cost control measures can and must be undertaken so that appropriate, affordable health care is available to all. We urge the development of more local Home Health Care organizations.

### **Health Care and Professional Liability**

We believe there is a threat to health care in this state because of the cost and availability of professional liability insurance coverage for health care providers.

The increased incidence of medical malpractice claims has caused the cost of insurance coverage to soar, reduced the availability of coverage, and contributed to higher patient fees. We believe health care delivery would be improved and the medical malpractice insurance problem corrected by the enactment of state legislation which would:

1. Prohibit publication of the dollar amount sought in a medical malpractice suit;
2. Limit the amount of money which can be recovered in a medical malpractice suit;
3. Modify and restrict the use of the contingency fee system by the legal profession; and
4. Reduce the statute of limitations and time of discovery for an alleged act of negligence or omission.

## **Health Care for the Elderly**

We urge citizen volunteers and paid health professionals to cooperatively work to meet the needs of the growing elderly population in Kansas. It is important that local programs for Kansas senior citizens maximize the independence of the elderly as long as possible.

For many of our elderly, however, nursing home care will become a necessity. We believe nursing home regulations should be limited to only those that protect quality of care.

### **Nutrition Education for Health Professionals**

There is evidence that many health care professionals have not had sufficient educational course work in nutrition and its relation to the treatment of disease.

We believe nutrition training and courses should be required in medical and health-related education curricula.

### **Nutrition Education for School Children**

Very little formal education is provided in Kansas schools to help our youth learn how to fit needed nutrition into the era of fast-food restaurants.

We urge county Farm Bureaus to support and encourage nutrition education and training programs in Kansas schools. School food personnel need nutrition education as well.

We strongly urge monitoring the use of federal funds for nutrition education in order to assure that students and food service personnel receive the benefits of such nutrition training programs.

## **TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES**

### **Automobile Safety**

We deplore the blackmail tactics of the federal government to bring about seat belt use laws. We should have a seat belt use law in Kansas, not because the federal government requires it, and not because our highway funds and user taxes are held hostage, but because the use of seat belts saves lives.

## **County Bridge Construction**

We believe there should be county, state and federal government cost-sharing and financing so that bridge construction and bridge replacement may proceed without further delay. Specifications and standards for bridges should be determined cooperatively by state and local engineers to meet local needs. Where practicable, we would urge the use of prestressed, precast materials, as well as dirt fills in connection with conservation dams, for bridge construction, as opposed to costly "over-designed," over-built bridges. We further believe that in some cases, low-water bridges would be adequate.

## **County Highway Fund Distribution**

The present Kansas law which distributes highway user revenues to counties uses a formula which gives excessive weight to motor vehicle registrations. This results in glaring inequities of fund distributions. We will support an amended formula with major weight given to miles of county federal-aid secondary, rural road and highway travel, plus consideration of miles of roads that must be maintained by county highway departments.

## **Emergency Telephone System**

We urge the implementation of the 911 emergency phone system on the state level.

## **Highway Development and Funding**

We believe upgrading and improving existing roads and highways is preferable to building additional freeways, limited access highways, toll roads or turnpikes.

We urge that efficiencies be achieved in the operation of the Kansas Department of Transportation and that assurance be provided to protect against misuse of funds through bid-rigging or any other fraud.

We support the concept of highway users paying, through gallonage taxes and vehicle registration fees, for the construction and maintenance of highways, roads and bridges.

Toll road and turnpike construction in Kansas should not be contemplated unless a feasibility study on any such project shows the toll road or turnpike will pay its own way.

We are opposed to the use of any highway revenue or State General Fund revenue to guarantee toll roads or turnpike bonds.

Highway design and planning should avoid, where feasible, diagonal routing. Diagonal cuts are most disruptive to agricultural operations.

## **Highway Littering**

We deplore the increasing abuse and disregard for state laws relating to littering roads and highways. Broken glass, metal containers and garbage found along our roadsides are a nuisance and a hazard.

We recommend that steps be taken for more vigorous enforcement of state litter laws. We support recycling and the use of reusable and biodegradable containers. Non-returnable glass soft drink and beer containers should be prohibited.

## **Rail Car Safety Markings**

We believe all railroad cars operating in Kansas should be equipped with sufficient iridescent material in patterns so they will reflect the headlights of a motor vehicle at grade crossings. This requirement should apply to all new cars when placed in service and to all existing cars when returned to service after maintenance.

## **Trucking Deregulation**

We believe trucking (motor carrier) regulations are counter-productive and without benefit to shippers. Economic deregulation could provide greater competition in transportation. Energy conservation could result from backhaul opportunities. It should not take an action by a regulatory body, at the national or state level, for entry into a private enterprise endeavor such as trucking.

We urge the Kansas Legislature to deregulate the trucking industry.



## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Agricultural Hall of Fame and National Center Bonner Springs, Kansas**

The Agricultural Hall of Fame and National Center at Bonner Springs, Kansas, is set up as a shrine to honor those who have contributed to our great agricultural industry, and to preserve and display agricultural machinery.

Since this is an Agricultural Shrine, we would ask every farmer and rancher in Kansas to make a financial contribution to the Agricultural Hall of Fame.

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## Kansas Legislative Policy Group

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TIMOTHY N. HAGEMANN, Executive Director

March 17, 1986

### TESTIMONY

to

### SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Senate Bill 720

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I am Chip Wheelen of Pete McGill and Associates. We represent the Kansas Legislative Policy Group which is an organization of County Commissioners from primarily rural areas of the State. We appear today in support of SB 720, as amended by the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation.

It is our understanding that the \$24 Million amount reflected in SB 720 represents 50 percent of the estimated total costs of statewide reappraisal of real estate. We support the concept of SB 720 although we would prefer that the State assume a greater share of the total cost.

At our meeting last February 4th, the KLPG Board of Directors adopted a motion to request 75 percent state funding of reappraisal. While this may seem overly demanding, we believe our reason for making such a request is justified.

Because mineral properties are appraised based on the income approach to value, we anticipate severe losses in assessed valuations in the near future. We believe that every effort should be made to provide property tax relief at this time. Our tax base is principally attributable to agricultural real estate and minerals and both the farming sector and the minerals industry are currently in a recession. Therefore, we must minimize mill levies by whatever means possible. Senate Bill 720 represents a step in the right direction.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to recommend SB 720 for passage. Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.

S. W. M. 3/17/86  
D 3-17-86

# Kansas Association of Counties

*Serving Kansas Counties*

Suite D, 112 West Seventh Street, Topeka, Kansas 66603

Phone 913 233-2271

March 17, 1986

To: Senator Gus Bogina, Chairman  
Members Senate Ways & Means Committee

From: Bev Bradley, Legislative Coordinator  
Kansas Association of Counties

Re: SB-720

Good Morning, my name is Beverly Bradley. I represent The Kansas Association of Counties. I come to you today in support of SB-720 and I thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The voting delegates at our state conference last November placed property taxation and reappraisal high in our priorities for our legislative policy. Point 2(a) says

"We pledge a dedicated and cooperative effort to bring the statewide reappraisal to a fair and accurate conclusion and request that the state finance seventy-five percent (75%) of the cost."

K.S.A. 1985 Supp. 79-1478 says "the state shall assume a portion of the costs incurred by any county in complying with the provisions of this act."

County commissioners look upon reappraisal as a job to be done in partnership with the State. Every county except one levied money in the 1986 budget for reappraisal. That county I am told is planning to use Revenue Sharing money this year.

Counties have requested, early on, and still believe in 75% state reimbursement. We consider that to be a fair and reasonable amount for the state mandated program. As SB-720 is written it appears the intent is for approximately 50% reimbursement to counties. I believe that \$50 million estimated cost of reappraisal is low, thus the \$24,000,000. does not even meet the 50% mark. However we are grateful that this legislation, SB-720 is being offered and would only ask that the total amount be increased.

Reappraisal is moving forward and with patience and endurance, persistence and perseverance we will meet the required time constraints.

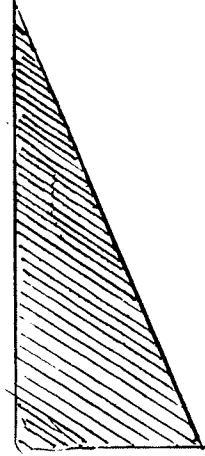
Thank you very much. I appreciate your time and I would stand for questions if that is appropriate.

*S.W.B. 3/17/86*  
*E 3-17-86*

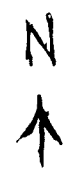
Re HB 2791

Merchant & K99

E. S. U.  
CAMPKS



12th Ave



Merchant

Rep. Jim Cozter

S. W. M. 3/17/86

F 3-18-86

AN ACT authorizing the state board of regents to sell and convey certain real estate located in Lyon county.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. The state board of regents is hereby authorized and empowered, for and on behalf of Emporia state university, to sell and convey all of the rights, title and interest in the following described real estate located in Lyon county, Kansas: The west half of lot 2 except the north 110 feet in the Normal Addition to the city of Emporia, according to the recorded plat thereof in Lyon county, Kansas, commonly known as 136 W. 12th Avenue, Emporia, Kansas. Conveyance of such rights, title and interest in such real estate shall be executed in the name of the state board of regents by its chairperson and executive officer. When the sale is made, the proceeds thereof shall be paid to the Emporia state university memorial union corporation to be used for renovation of the memorial union on the campus.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Kansas register.

S. W. M. 3/17/86

G 3-17-86