



Neutral: SB 248

March 13, 2023

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the House Committee on Taxation:

The Kansas Food and Farm Coalition **is neutral on the passage of SB 248**. We appreciate the work of the Senate to expand the original bill to include all food and food ingredients, as this will make it easier for Kansas families to access the food appropriate to their dietary needs, culture, and budget.

We are most enthusiastic about the provision to accelerate the elimination of the state-level sales tax on food and food ingredients by January 2024. Eliminating the state's portion of the sales tax is urgently needed, as food costs continue to rise due to inflation and families struggle to put food on the table. With the funds saved by not paying state sales tax, consumers can spend more on food from their local grocery store or farmers market, which puts money back in Kansas communities and farmers' pockets.

We remain neutral on the bill due to the elimination of the local portion of the sales tax. We leave it up to the members of this committee and the representatives of local governments to determine what is best for our Kansas cities and towns.

Respectfully,

Harvesters
Kansas Food Action Network
Kansas Rural Center
KC Healthy Kids

The Kansas Food and Farm Coalition (FFC) is a group of long-standing Kansas nonprofit organizations concerned about our food system - from farm to fork. In recognition of how interwoven food system issues are, these organizations have come together to support policies that grow Kansas communities' local food systems. This includes policies that support small and mid-sized farms, increase production and sales of locally grown foods, increase access to healthy food for all, and improve food security in our communities.

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