



House Committee on Taxation

March 10, 2023

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee on Assessment and Taxation,

My name is Jon McCormick, President and CEO of the Retail Grocers Association of Kansas and Missouri. I am writing you today to ask you to support eliminating the food sales tax on the food and food ingredients as defined in SB 248 starting January 2024 or earlier if that were possible.

As you now know, I represent most of the Independent Supermarket and Convenience stores in the State of Kansas.

Last year, we all knew that because of the state of economy Kansans needed help with the basic needs of buying food. That is why you wisely voted in the House by the overwhelming margin of 114-3 to lower the food sales tax to zero in a few years. Well, food prices are even higher currently, and taking it to 0% sooner you will help Kansans immensely and get the retailers along the state lines to a level playing field quicker.

While RGA of Kansas and Missouri is in support of lowering the state food sales tax to zero as soon as possible, we are however, neutral on eliminating the local food taxes. We have many local grocers who are concerned about burdening city and county governments by exempting food taxes. The local grocer produces a strong tax base for local services and projects and are concerned for their community. Members have expressed concern for the potential reduction in services in their local community and suspect that the exemption would harm everyone in that community and surrounding area.

Please support the lowering of the food sales tax to zero as soon as possible. Be wary of the concerns my members have on exempting the local taxes of food.

Thank you for your time today and thank you for your dedication to your fellow Kansans.

If you have any questions for me, I stand ready,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon".



Jon McCormick, President/CEO, Retail Grocers Association KS & MO