



**Testimony of Randy Leis, County Commissioner Meade County, Kansas
Before the House Committee on Taxation
In Opposition to Senate Bill No. 248
March 13, 2023**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Kiowa

Lane

Logan

Meade

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Rush

Scott

Seward

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Mister Chair and Members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me to offer written testimony in opposition to Senate Bill No. 248, which would remove the authority to levy a local sales tax on food and food ingredients.

I am Randy Leis, a Meade County Commissioner. I also serve as president of the Kansas Legislative Policy Group, a non-partisan group of 33 rural Kansas counties that work collectively on issues of mutual interest.

KLPG is opposed to eliminating local sales tax on food and food ingredients, or any other items for which sales taxes are currently collected at the local level.

Passage of SB 248 will erode our local sales tax collections and force a shift of the tax burden onto property taxes. It is estimated that SB 248 could reduce revenues to local governmental units by \$180 million or more each year. Twenty-nine of our member counties have some form of a sales taxes and the lost sales tax could mean a reduction of \$8.6 million annually for the counties share.

Many communities have implemented a local sales tax, with voter approval, to support improvement projects, community enhancements and service debt obligations. Passage of SB 248 would seriously unravel the revenue stream for these repayments and jeopardize services in counties.

We ask that you oppose Senate Bill No. 248.

Thank you for your consideration.

Randy Leis
President
Kansas Legislative Policy Group