





WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Randy Leis, Meade County Commissioner  
Before the House Committee on Taxation  
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1611  
and House Concurrent Resolution No. 5025  
March 19, 2024**

Member Counties

Barber  
Barton  
Clark  
Ellis  
Finney  
Ford  
Gove  
Grant  
Gray  
Hamilton  
Harper  
Haskell  
Hodgeman  
Kearny  
Kiowa  
Lane  
Logan  
Meade  
Ness  
Norton  
Rawlins  
Rice  
Rush  
Russell  
Scott  
Seward  
Sherman  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Thomas  
Trego  
Wallace  
Wichita

I'm Randy Leis, Meade County Commissioner. I also chair the Kansas Legislative Policy Task Force. It is a nonpartisan, non-profit group of 33 rural Kansas counties working together on issues of mutual interest. KLPG is one of the oldest local government associations in Kansas, founded nearly 50 years ago.

As you know, property taxes are an important source of revenue for local governments, and we think these measures are concerning. Counties are challenged to provide the services they need to their residents within our limited and sometimes declining resources.

As locally elected officials, we support fair and equitable tax policies and know that reducing the property tax burden is extremely important and we take it very seriously in our county's budget process each year.

We are concerned that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1611 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 5025 move away from critical elements of fairness and uniformity in tax policy, while weakening our local tax base and shifting tax liability to other property classes or simply to new construction within a class. The current decline in value in certain classifications of agricultural and commercial property has already affected county budgeting. The home value limits set by these proposed legislative measures will create further disparities between taxpayers and make it harder for some counties to maintain operations let alone plan public investments for growth.

Not all housing markets are the same, many counties do not see the same housing market or appreciation rate as others. However, these constitutional amendments apply property tax policy to each county without flexibility, making it difficult for individual adjustments to meet community needs.

Please consider these points when considering Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1611 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 5025.

Thank you for your consideration.