

March 21, 2023

Dear Madam Chairwoman Tyson and Members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee,

I am writing today to ask you to support SCR 1610. It is so needed to protect the citizens of Kansas from county assessments on their properties that continue to rise at unreasonable rates.

We just received our valuation on our home and 11 acres in rural Miami County. It increased \$137,360, a 24.3% increase from last year. Since we moved here in 2017, our appraised value has increased 73.7%! It only stayed that "low" because I have appealed it several years for incorrect classification and inconsistent appraisal compared to the surrounding properties.

Citizens should not have to fear that county appraisers can raise their valuations at unchecked rates every year. They try to include a nice paragraph on the back of the assessment saying that it doesn't necessarily mean that you will pay more taxes and that they do not set those rates. Any thinking person knows that even if the budget remains neutral, with no planned increases in mill levies, your taxes will increase if your assessment is higher.

I am asking you to reign in this out-of-control ability to raise values at will. Soon, people will not be able to afford to live in their own homes. We have even considered a move to Missouri, because our county is making our housing costs rise at such a dramatic rate. It is true that home values have increased in the last several years, however, the people living in those homes have not realized that profit. Yet, their costs, in the form of property taxes, continue to rise.

I urge you to support SCR 1610.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jennifer Whitlow
Spring Hill, KS 66083