

CITY OF



WASHINGTON

301 C Street, P.O. Box 296, Washington, KS 66968

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

RE: Support for restoring LAVTR, Senate Bill 196

Dear Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to express the support of the City of Washington for restoring the local ad valorem tax reduction fund. The local ad valorem tax reduction fund (LAVTR) is an important tool to reduce the property tax burden on local taxpayers. It was established to help use the sales tax as a means to smooth the impact of local fluctuations on property taxes. Local residents are already paying these taxes when they buy goods. They simply are not getting the benefit returned to them when they pay their property taxes.

When the City last received the LAVTR it was around \$15,000. This doesn't seem like a lot of money, however, for a small town this is substantial revenue which was used to help fund street projects.

This money helps lower the impact on personal property tax. By funding LAVTR, the legislative action would recognize the diligence of locally elected government leaders who have empathy for taxpayers' plight and have tried to hold property taxes steady while continuing to provide mandated, essential, and requested services for our community.

Working together at the state, county, and city level, I believe we can address Kansas's tax base, fund the LAVTR, and responsibly manage the property tax burden borne by Kansan taxpayers.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
City of Washington

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carl D. Chalfant'.

Carl D. Chalfant
City Administrator

Cc'd: Senator Roger Marshall, Senator Jerry Moran & House of Representative Lisa Moser