



February 12, 2024

Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Dear Committee Members;

The City of Maize would like to express concern with proposed language being placed into Senate Bill 468 regarding language that places limitations on communities that utilize economic development incentives such as property tax exemptions, constitutional tax abatement, and tax increment financing. By connecting the city's authorization to assess property taxes with their ability to issue incentives, this legislation creates a serious threat to continued record economic growth that the State of Kansas has seen over the last several years. The modified provision to the Revenue Neutral Rate legislation appears to be written to curb continued economic growth in the state and cancel many of the economic development gains that cities and the State of Kansas has made over the last several years.

In Maize, Kansas IRBs and tax abatements have helped land multiple quality industrial developments over the last five years including but not limited to Reifenhauer Extrusion, Kyoto Yushi, Shuttle Aerospace, Aero-tech Engineering, and anticipated new industries such as Cox Airparts, LLC and Charlotte Pipe. At the same time growth in residential base has paced Maize to be one of the fastest growing cities in the State of Kansas. The Maize Governing Body has tried to keep mill levies stable while still investing significantly in critical infrastructure growth which is no easy task for a city growing at our pace. Since 2012, the Maize general operating mill levies have fluctuated between as high as 43.117 mills and as low as 42.980 mills with the 2024 mill levy being 43.008.

SB468 works directly against the growth that made places like Maize, Kansas stand out for the last several years and places continued growth at risk in the future. We ask that the committee reconsider this proposed modification that forces cities to decide between sustainability of operations and efforts to continue growth. This is a no-win situation for growing cities and for the State of Kansas.

Sincerely

Nick Gregory  
City Manager  
City of Maize