

SB 35 proponent testimony – written only
Eliminate 1.5 mills of state property tax
House Taxation Committee
Dave Trabert, CEO
February 27, 2025



Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

We are pleased to provide written testimony supporting the elimination of 1.5 mills of property tax for state building maintenance.

The proposal would save taxpayers approximately \$80 million annually and make a separate provision for a direct transfer from the State General Fund to provide building maintenance.

There should be no question that the State can afford to provide this small amount of tax relief. According to the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), Kansas spent 56% more per resident in FY 2023 than the states that don't have an income tax and 48% more than the 10 states with the lowest state and local tax burdens (Tax Foundation).

2023 State Spending Per Capita	
Description	Amount
Kansas	\$ 5,428
States with no income tax	\$ 3,479
State that tax income	\$ 6,000
10 lowest state and local tax burdens	\$ 3,661
10 highest state and local tax burdens	\$ 6,829

Source: National Association of State Budget Officers; total state spending less federal funding and amounts related to debt issuance.

Every state provides the same basket of services (education, transportation, social services, etc.), but some states do so much more efficiently than others, which allows them to have lower taxes. Legislators can easily find efficiencies through the performance-based budgeting process to provide this \$75 million tax relief and much more.

We encourage the Committee to recommend SB 35 favorably for passage, and we thank you for your consideration.