

**To:** Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, Senator Caryn Tyson, Chair

**From:** John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau

**Date:** January 21, 2025

**Re: Verbal and Written Testimony in support of SB 35: AN ACT concerning property taxation; relating to tax levies; discontinuing the state tax levies for the Kansas educational building fund and the state institutions building fund; providing financing therefor from the state general fund;**

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Chair Tyson and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony as a proponent of SB 35. My name is John Donley, and I am speaking today on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB). KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

KFB has been advocating for lower property taxes for years. KFB policy supports a "fair, just, and equitable tax system that is not detrimental to production agriculture." We are fully behind efforts to provide broad based property tax relief to taxpayers in Kansas. This bill is a great starting point to provide much needed relief to all Kansas property taxpayers.

As we have testified in the past, the state and local government's reliance on property taxes has reached a point where action must be taken. By passing this legislation, not only will the legislature provide direct property tax relief broadly to all property owners, it will also show leadership to local units of government. Ideally, they will follow the lead of the state and look at ways to reduce the property tax burden on citizens at the local level.

KFB also believes it is important to point out that the provisions of SB 35 that essentially create a demand transfer for the building funds currently funded by the 1.5 mills is a proper manner for the state to continue meeting the maintenance needs of state institutions while also reducing property taxes.

We look forward to working with this committee and the rest of the legislature to achieve the goal of truly lowering Kansan's property taxes. We strongly support passage of this bill and thank you for your consideration of this important tax relief.

I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.