



Since 1894

Date: January 21, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Sen. Caryn Tyson, Chair

From: Aaron M. Popelka, V.P. of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Kansas Livestock Association

Re: 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.

Position: Proponent, In-Person.

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing nearly 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Thank you, Chair Tyson, and members of the Committee, for giving the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) the opportunity to support SB 35 that would discontinue the 1.5 mill levy for the Kansas educational building fund and the state institutions building fund.

KLA policy "supports increased reliance on income tax and other non-property tax sources," to fund government. Reducing the total statewide mill levy is the single most effective means for the state legislature to effect broad-based property tax relief. This approach ensures property tax relief applies equally across all classes of property.

In addition to eliminating the 1.5 mill levy for the Kansas educational building fund and the state institutions building fund, KLA would also encourage the legislature to hold revenue from the statewide mill levy for education at a constant level in future tax years. The legislature has implemented a revenue neutral approach for local taxing authorities and KLA would encourage the legislature to adopt the same approach for the state.

KLA appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 35, and we ask that the Committee recommend the bill favorable for passage.