

February 23, 2025


Re: Senate Bill 223, Written Proponent Testimony

Member of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Hello, my name is Dustin Madden. I am a resident of Russell, KS and a member of the Russell City Council. I am writing to offer proponent testimony on SB 223, which would allow the Russell County Commissioners to submit a question to voters about imposing a countywide retailers' sales tax.

State law requires legislative approval for counties to place a countywide sales tax initiative on the ballot. Therefore, this bill does not impose a countywide sales tax; however, it allows the question to be submitted to voters. This is the epitome of local control—giving the local voters the ability to choose whether or not to impose a countywide sales tax while understanding the use of those sales tax proceeds. Voting yes on SB 223 would only allow the voters of Russell County to decide whether to impose a countywide sales tax for the purpose of financing the cost of construction, remodeling, capital improvements, or maintenance of any school district facilities within the county. If the voters of Russell County were to pass the sales tax question, it would help to alleviate the tax burden on property owners, a goal of this year's legislative body.

I respectfully request you support SB 223 and allow the voters of Russell County to decide. Thus, giving local control to the local voters!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dustin Madden". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Dustin" and last name "Madden" clearly legible.

Dustin Madden
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Russell, KS 67665