

**14 March 2012 ~ Written Testimony of Dennis M. Donahue, Cdr. USNR-Ret. To the
Kansas House of Representatives Committee on Taxation**

Thank you Chairman Carlson and members of the Tax Committee for convening this hearing on House Bill 2763, a measure intended to create a state-adapted Kansas version of the FairTax.

I am Dennis Donahue, born and raised on a Kansas farm. I am a retired U.S. Navy Commander. As a Naval Flight Officer, I flew 263 combat missions in Viet Nam...over 200 flights off a U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier. I have since started and operated three successful businesses, and am a taxpayer and investor.

I am here today to ask you to please GET YOUR COLLECTIVE HEADS OUTOF "THE SAND" (euphemism here) and "PATCH UP WHAT WE HAVE NOW" mentality.

YOU ARE TRYING TO FIX A HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD SYSTEM THAT IS SO PERFORATED WITH LOOPHOLES AND SPECIAL INTEREST BENEFITS THAT HALF OF THE PUBLIC DON'T PAY ANYTHING AT ALL INTO IT! Your only real hope is to **Change It Entirely.**

YOU ARE TRYING TO FIX OUR ECONOMIC OLD STEAM ENGINE OF A TAX SYSTEM THAT IS ON A DOWN-HILL GRADE, AND INSTEAD OF MODERNIZING AND CHANGING THE ENGINE TO A POWERFUL NEW HYDROGEN/DEISEL TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY SYSTEM, YOU ARE THINKING THAT IF YOU CAN TINKER WITH THE LOCOMOTIVE ENOUGH, YOU WILL HAVE THE KANSAS ECONOMY RUNNING ON AN EVEN GRADE IN ONLY 4, OR MAYBE 8, YEARS .

THE SAD NEWS IS THAT IN 4 YEARS OUR **ENTIRE ECONOMIC TRAIN IS GOING TO BE IN TEXAS - OR OKLAHOMA - OR MISSOURI**OR ANY OTHER OF THE NINE STATES WHICH GAVE UP ON FIXING AN OLD SYSTEM AND **CHANGED THEIRS.**

OUR ENTIRE ECONOMIC TRAIN IS GOING TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE, GIVING FREE **CHOO CHOO** RIDES TO THE KIDDIES AND GRANDKIDS OF THE BUSINESSMEN WHO WERE SMART ENOUGH TO MOVE TO WHERE THE **GETTIN WAS GOOD..AND THE TAXES WERE FAIR.**

TOMORROW YOU WILL HEAR **OPPONENTS** OF THIS FAIRER FAIRTAX SYSTEM SPEAK. WHEN THEY START TALKING – ASK YOURSELF WHOSE SLICE OF BREAD THEY WANT BUTTERED. **WHOSE SPECIAL INTEREST DO THEY REPRESENT?** I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IT WON'T BE FOR THE COLLECTIVE GOOD OF THE **CITIZENS OF KANSAS AND FOR OUR ECONOMY.**

BUT...YOU CAN DO JUST EXACTLY THAT WITH A FAIR TAX. THANK YOU.