

Chairman Carlson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in favor of House Bill 2763.

My name is Ronald E. Long. I am retired and have been a resident of Rose Hill, Kansas for the past 30 years.

For decades, special interest groups have made their annual pilgrimage to the Capitol in Topeka seeking to preserve and protect their various exemptions and tax credits.

Their mantra has always been the same: "It's OK to gore someone else's ox, but not mine."

Fact is, for myself, and indeed for the entire State of Kansas, I urge you today that we no longer want to keep feeding that same old under-producing ox called the Income Tax.

I want a better, smarter, and more forward-thinking taxation system for our state:

- that removes Kansas' involvement in the "favor factory," which gives special treatment to selected interest groups
- that no longer allows our politicians to pick winners and losers, giving millions of taxpayer dollars to influential private businesses
- that puts more discretionary spending power directly back into the pockets of Kansas citizens
- that will grow the Kansas economy, not in a piecemeal way, but significantly and rapidly
- where Kansas citizens and businesses will no longer have to spend countless, capital-wasting hours trying to comply with complicated Kansas tax laws
- where, out of frustration, Kansans are forced no more into spending extra time and money for a tax preparation service
- where we will spread the tax base, requiring all Kansans to share the burden fairly by having some skin in the game
- that replaces the present 6.3% Kansas sales tax with a fairer, simpler 5.7% consumption tax on only new retail goods and services for strictly personal use.
- that allows all those who collect the tax for the state to be compensated financially by the state for doing the work of collecting it

I support adoption of House Bill 2763, simply because it fills every single one of these criteria.

I hope you will support it with as much enthusiasm as I, and will quickly enact it into law.

Thank you.