



Testimony by Mr. Daniel Murray
Kansas State Director, National Federation of Independent Business
Senate Local Government Committee
Monday, January 30, 2012

Good Morning Chairman Reitz and members of the Committee. I am pleased to be here on behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). The NFIB is the state's leading small business advocacy organization representing over 4,100 small business owners across Kansas.

NFIB opposes SB347, which proposes to exempt municipalities as defined in K.S.A. 12-105a from paying Kansas Court of Tax Appeals (COTA) filing fees, for two main reasons.

First, COTA has experienced significant reductions in the portion of their budget which is supported by the state general fund. As such, COTA has been forced to reduce staff and dramatically increase filing fees. Both the Court and advocates, like NFIB, have expressed serious concerns that the increased fees present a bar to access for citizens seeking an appeal.

By exempting municipalities from filing fees, COTA's budget will take another hit, possibly leading to additional increases in fees for others thereby exacerbating access concerns.

Second, if municipalities need not pay COTA filing fees, then they lose some incentive to arrive at just resolution with taxpayers at the local level. This is certainly troubling to many small business owners who often feel that the cards are already stacked against them.

Again, NFIB opposes SB347.

Small Business Isn't Small

Collectively, small business isn't small. It represents over 97 percent of all employer firms and provides employment to 54.7% of the non-farm private work force in Kansas. It pays 44 percent of total U.S. private payroll. In the past fifteen years, it has annually generated 64% of net new jobs. It generates more than 50% of the gross domestic product. It possesses half of the business wealth in the U.S.

Senate Local Government

1-30-2012

Attachment 7