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Dear members of the House Committee on Taxation,

I support the passage of House Bill No. 2047. I believe it provides the *transparency* that taxpayers deserve when elected local governmental officials are allowed to receive automatic tax revenue increases when property values rise without having to vote for it publicly.

A student in my real estate school advises me that the Realtor organization he has membership in is opposed to this property tax reform bill, and that they view passage of this bill as placing a “tax-lid” on local governmental taxing authority.

I am surprised by the position taken by the statewide Realtor organization for a number of reasons.

1. My friend tells me they never “survey” their members before taking political positions.
2. Based on my years in the real estate business, I have found that customers and clients of real estate brokers and salespeople strongly oppose real estate taxes and I believe would support any form of property tax reform.
3. The Realtor organization represents only about half of the real estate licensees in Kansas.

I have held a real estate broker’s license since 1973.

Property tax reform as provided in House Bill No. 2047 clearly brings the tax relief that will provide the economic growth that Governor Brownback advocates.

Sincerely,

Larry Rickard