

February 4, 2016

TO: House Taxation Committee

FROM: John (Jack) Sossoman – Topeka, KS – Opponent

RE: HB 2551 – Authorizing sales taxation authority for the Sherwood public improvement district

Chairman Kleeb and members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding HB 2551 - Authorizing sales taxation authority for the Sherwood public improvement district.

My wife and I are senior citizens on fixed incomes and live in a residential area of Shawnee County close to the Sherwood Improvement District (SID). We both are Constitutional Conservatives, believing, as our founding fathers did, in *limited government*, low taxes, controlled spending and debt, and a restrained regulatory environment. None of these principals are in effect today at either the Federal or State level. I believe that most of you would agree with that.

That brings me to my opposition to this bill. HB 2551, if not unique, is a rare authorization of taxation that would be given to a small governmental entity. If this bill is approved and passed, what will you do when the next group, be it a township, an improvement district, or any other small government entity chooses to have a lobbyist influence a House member to introduce a bill that will allow them the authority to raise taxes? This has to stop. We should not be giving authorization to any small government group to raise taxes on the public. My understanding is that HB 2551 is a **tax bill** that will increase the revenues to the SID, and this additional revenue will be controlled by three people who currently manage this improvement district. The money will be used for the standard operating budget of this small group. Road maintenance & repair and other expenditures are usually covered by property taxes in the area. The SID should be satisfied to work from the monies received from the property taxes, county, and state.

There are not very many businesses in the SID, but many people of the district shop at Dillion's grocery store complex at the corner of Urish Road and 29th Street. Dillon's is remaining neutral on this question for several reasons: 1 – the sales taxes are passed on to the consumer and 2 – the lobbyist who has proposed this legislation is working for the grocers on several issues, but most importantly, to lobby for legislation to allow them to sell liquor.

Respectively Submitted,

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