



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 10, 2016

The Honorable Marvin Kleeb, Chairman
House Tax Committee
Capitol Building, Room 582-N
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: H.B. 2477 - Testimony in Support

Dear Chairman Kleeb and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Riley County Commissioners unanimously supports H.B. 2477.

The purpose of H.B. 2477 is to speed every county's ability to collect delinquent real property taxes, without modifying in any way the existing statutory process for real property tax foreclosure. Registration of a motor vehicle is a privilege, not a right. We believe everyone ought to keep their real property taxes current, and our proposed legislation promotes that.

Our legislation excludes delinquent real property taxes owed on a citizen's homestead. No one will be affected by this legislation if the only delinquent real property tax they owe is on their primary residence. Instead, the existing, much slower process of real property tax foreclosure will remain in place. An additional exemption in our bill is one intended to allow business owners with a fleet of vehicles to select one automobile in that fleet for personal use. Registration would be allowed on that selected vehicle, but not on the remainder of the vehicle fleet, until the owner's delinquent real property taxes are paid.

Some have claimed that this is unfair to some business owners, that it's somehow too "harsh." But our constituents generally don't see anything wrong with forcing such a business owner to pay the delinquent real property taxes they owe. Why should other taxpayers subsidize a business's decision to take advantage of the statutory delays in real property tax foreclosure? Why should that business owner with delinquent real property taxes be able to decide it's to their benefit to take advantage of the relatively low interest rate on delinquent real property taxes and delay payment for years?

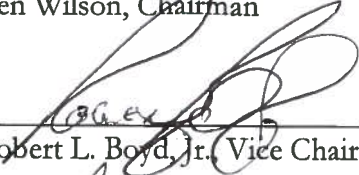
We believe anyone who opposes the concept in this bill should be asked those questions.

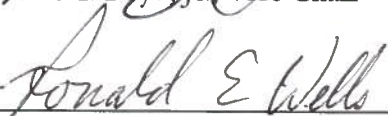
Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our County Commission's unanimous support for H.B. 2477.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
RILEY COUNTY, KANSAS


Ben Wilson, Chairman


Robert L. Boyd, Jr., Vice Chair


Ronald E. Wells, Member