THE LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

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Date: March 8, 2016

To: House Committee on Taxation

From: Larry R. Baer
General Counsel

Re: House Bill 2714 – Testimony in Opposition
(Written Only)

Thank you for allowing me to present testimony in opposition to House Bill 2714 on behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities and its member cities.

HB 2714, among other things, would change the law regarding the valuation and appraisal of property for ad valorem tax purposes from an annual time frame to a biennium time frame.

The League is concerned that the use of the same valuation for a two year time-period could result in unintended consequences that could adversely impact taxpayers and taxing units depending upon market value conditions. When appraisals and valuations are talked about, taxpayers regularly state that they need to accurately reflect market conditions. Locking valuation in for two years at a time does not accomplish this. Depending upon what the market is doing, such valuation process could either artificially suppress valuation or hold it higher than it is in actuality. In either case, the appraisal and valuation of the property does not accurately reflect what market value should be.

For the above reasons, the League of Kansas Municipalities opposes House Bill 2714 and requests that the Committee take no further action on the matter.

Thank you.