

CITY OF ALTOONA

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MAYOR: Nathaniel Sisney CITY CLERK: Chris Bauman

March 2, 2016

The Honorable Rep. Marvin KleeB
Chair, House Taxation Committee

Dear Rep. KleeB,

I am writing in support of the League of Kansas Municipalities **against** the passing of proposed HB 2609.

I find it surprising that the state legislature is proposing a cap on property taxes on a county/city basis. Who is to make up the difference in funding cuts that continue to come down the pike from the current legislature? I think we all know what the outcome of putting property tax increases to a local vote is going to be.

Our biggest concern in Altoona Kansas is uninhabitable properties and how to remove them. With a deteriorating tax base and rising operational costs a cap would put us in a quandary of how to make up for our loss of population and tax base.

The governor's answer seems to be cutting costs, but we operate on a shoestring budget now. My position is part-time and our operations are based in a 100 year old crumbling brick building. Our one and only full-timer works a 7-day week to cover water testing done on a daily basis. Who will agree to that kind of a schedule when it is time to replace him?

How can we expect our state legislators to be experts on every topic that comes across their desks, allow the opportunity of local funding questions to stay at a local level where we just might know a thing or two about just what our local needs and finance issues are!

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bauman
Altoona City Clerk