



City of Leawood

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March 4, 2016

Chairman Marvin Kleeb
House Taxation Committee
Kansas State Capital
300 SW 10th Street
Room # 582-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2609

Dear Chairman Kleeb and Members of the House Taxation Committee:

I am writing to you to express my strong support and urge your favorable consideration of House Bill No. 2609.

Having been the Mayor of the City of Leawood for the past 19 years, I can assure you that the City of Leawood has been extremely fiscally conservative with its property tax mill levy and property tax revenue. Since 2005, the City's property tax revenue has increased from \$14,200,000 in 2005 to \$18,960,000 in 2015. This is an average increase of \$476,000, or 3.3%, per year. Simultaneously, over the past decade, the City's mill levy rate has ranged from a low of 24.218 mills in 2005 to a high of 24.508 mills in 2015. This is a difference of only .29 mills over the ten year period. During the same time period, the City of Leawood has had the second lowest mill levy rate among all of the cities of the first class in the State of Kansas. However, this does not mean that a future Governing Body will have no need to increase our mill levy to raise additional property tax revenues for the betterment of our City. Any decision to do so, and by what extent, should be a decision made by the local elected officials utilizing our Constitutional Home Rule authority, for which they will be held accountable to the electorate.

Given the fact that the Governor and numerous members of our Johnson County delegation have stated that it is only a question of when the imposition of a property tax lid will occur, it is my sincere hope that you and the members of your Committee will consider the approval of the additional exemptions along with those that already exist statutorily. These additional exemptions will allow for greater flexibility in the preparation of annual municipal budgets to help counter the anticipated constraint of property tax revenues.

Thank you for your consideration of my position.

Very truly yours,

CITY OF LEAWOOD, KANSAS

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Peggy J. Dunn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and 'D'.

PEGGY J. DUNN

Mayor

cc: Leawood City Councilmembers
Scott Lambers, City Administrator