

CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE



*690 S. 4th St.
P.O. Box 13738
Edwardsville, KS 66113
(913) 441-3707
Fax (913) 441-3805*

March 3, 2016

Dear Chairman Kleeb and members of the House Taxation Committee:

Thank you for considering our testimony in support of on HB 2609 regarding amendments to K.S.A. 2015 79-2925(b). While we are generally opposed to State imposed tax lids, we believe the proposed amendments provide a workable solution that protects the rights of citizens concerned about taxation while giving local communities the necessary flexibility to prepare and adopt budgets supporting the values and visions of each community.

A key component of the bill is the use of the Municipal Cost Index, which has been published by American City and County since 1978. As you know, this index is a composite index that more accurately depicts the purchasing habits of local government and we support its use in comparison to the Consumer Price Index.

Another key component is the use of a petition process for the election versus a required election that may not be of any interest to local citizens. This is a comparable process used in other states such as Texas. Again, we support this process in lieu of the automatic election that is currently required, but which cannot be effectively implemented.

Finally, we support the proposed exceptions to the election process for those items generally beyond the control of local elected and appointed officials. We would also propose that property which is under a tax abatement, either by an Industrial Revenue Bond or a Constitutional Abatement, not be considered an increase in overall tax value like the TIF exception.

In closing, we believe HB 2609 is a reasonable resolution between the unworkable regulations in K.S.A. 2015 79-2925(b) and implementing a framework for limiting unreasonable tax increases.

On behalf of the Honorable John McTaggart, Mayor, and members of the Edwardsville, Kansas City Council.

Michael Webb
City Manager

xc: Edwardsville Governing Body