

Date: March 14, 2016

To: House Committee on Taxation

From: Larry R. Baer
General Counsel

Re: House Bill 2719 – Neutral Testimony
(Written Only)

Thank you for allowing me to present testimony on behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities and our member cities.

As written, HB 2719 would not allow property taxes to be levied and no bonds could be issued unless approved by an elected governing body of a taxing jurisdiction or approved by a majority of the electors of that taxing jurisdiction. The bill would require an elected governing body that certifies the budget of a taxing jurisdiction to also approve property tax levies and bonds of that taxing jurisdiction. The bill changes property tax levies from being required to optional for certain taxing jurisdictions. The bill would require the Board of Regents to submit to the city and county for certain proposed levies for a municipal university.

The League is neutral as to the bill, but wants to make the Committee aware that the bill is very broad based and impacts a large number of entities created by other units of local government. The list of entities impacted includes: Airports, City, County, Township Libraries, Regional Libraries, Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, Leavenworth Co. & Leavenworth Library, Independence Area Library, Community Historical Museums, Recreation Commissions, Washburn University, Public Wholesale Water Districts, Fire Districts, Surplus Property & Public Airport Authority, and Fire Districts.

Some of these entities cross lines between cities and counties or counties and counties. The bill is not clear what occurs in these situation. We are aware of two cities that have formed a Wholesale Water Supply District that are concerned that the county will be the entity approving the budget because the district is formed under provisions in Chapter 19.

Please take the various nuances of HB 2719 into account when considering it.

Thanks you.