



Shane Krull
County Administrator

March 9, 2016

Sen. Les Donovan, Chairman
Assessment & Taxation Committee
Kansas Senate
State Capitol, Room 123-E
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Testimony of Miami County Administrator Shane Krull
Senate Bill No. 316

Honorable Sen. Donovan and Members of the Committee:

The Miami County, Kansas, Board of County Commissioners is opposed to Senate Bill No. 316, commonly known as the "tax lid bill". The Board has several concerns with the tax lid law enacted last year and considered further this year. Specifically, for today's purpose, I want to discuss the Bill's implementation date changed to July 1, 2016 in lieu of the current law's January 1, 2018 date. The proposed implementation date change is problematic for opening and operating the new Miami County Detention Center.

The voters of Miami County approved a ¼-cent retail sales tax in 2013 to finance the construction of a modern detention center and administrative offices for the Sheriff's Department. The Miami County Public Building Commission issued \$18,300,000 in PBC revenue bonds in 2014 and 2015 to finance the construction of a 43,000 square foot detention center. Construction is underway and occupancy of the new facility slated for February 2017.

Presently, Miami County utilizes a 12,000 square foot facility to house 20 inmates and provide administrative office space for 43 Sheriff's Department employees. The jail was constructed in the mid-1960's to house 40 inmates and six employees. The evolution of correctional standards reduced the capacity of the present jail by 50 percent. In that time, Miami County's population in 1970 was 20,000 and is now 33,000. The Sheriff's Department now employs 43 law enforcement officers, dispatchers, emergency management personnel, administrative staff and jailers. The inmate census level is often up to 55 inmates, requiring the need to "farm out" inmates to other counties.

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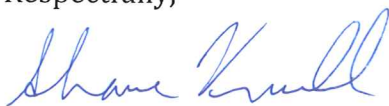
The new Miami County Detention Center will address a host of safety and work place crowding issues. The new facility's 98-inmate occupancy will bring an increase in operating costs associated with additional money being spent for food, medical needs, utilities, and staffing. Staffing levels will need to increase to 25 jailors, an 11-employee increase from the current level of 14. This action will result in an additional \$721,828 for personnel expense.

The Board plans to pay for this increase by utilizing ad valorem tax revenue in 2017 and 2018 when other long-term bonds are retired and the mill levy from the Bond & Interest Fund will be utilized in the General Fund.

Senate Bill No. 316 eliminates this possibility because the implementation date is July 1, 2016 instead of the present law's date of January 1, 2018. The operation of the detention center is not exempt from the provisions of the tax lid. As such, the Board will need to reduce funding for roads, bridges, courts, health and other governmental services in order to staff properly the new detention center.

The Miami County, Kansas, Board of County Commissioners opposes Senate Bill No. 316 and ask that the Bill not be adopted as law.

Respectfully,



Shane Krull
County Administrator