

To: House Taxation Committee, Representative Steven Johnson, Chairman

From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: March 16, 2017

Re: **HB 2376 – concerning property taxes**

Chairman Johnson and members of the Committee, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2376. KFB policy supports spending limitations on local units of government.

KFB was supportive of the original legislation creating the property tax lid. Furthermore, KFB was supportive of the compromise language passed last year allowing more exceptions to the property tax lid. KFB has made it clear we are also willing to ensure that the provisions of the legislation are workable for local units of government. Therefore, it is disappointing that there is an effort to change the voting mechanism from a true vote to a protest petition with extremely difficult triggers to require a vote.

KFB is supportive of the general policy premise behind the current law as it exists in statute, allowing voters to vote on increases in spending of local units of government which is disproportionately paid for by property taxes. KFB would like to ensure that whatever policy is put into place is workable for local units of government. However, we believe that the attempt to remove the voting requirement as it exists in current law is not a compromise and eliminates the effectiveness of the legislation.

In conclusion, we urge you to oppose HB 2376. Thank you for your time and consideration.