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City Hall
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Overland Park, Kansas 66212
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Date: February 28, 2018
To: Chairman Steven Johnson and the House Committee on Taxation
From: City of Overland Park – Dick Carter, Jr.
Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2755

Thank you for allowing the City of Overland Park to submit testimony in support of HB 2755. The current property tax lid law discourages local taxing units from consolidating, potentially preventing efficiencies that could save taxpayer's money. For these reasons, we support passage of this proposed legislation.

Consolidation of local taxing units has been a priority of the legislature for decades. However, under the current property tax lid law, cities and counties would be forced pay for a special election (even if none of their citizens want one) in order to increase the revenues necessary to take on another taxing unit's responsibilities. For example, if a Fire District wanted to merge with the City of Overland Park's Fire Department, the City would have to spend approximately \$200,000 to hold a special election on whether to raise revenues necessary to provide fire service within the Fire District's territory. Again, current law would require this costly election even if no citizen wanted it. If such a consolidation would already have been difficult for the City to take on, the cost of this election may prevent the City from pursuing it altogether. The proposed exemption in HB 2755 would make such an election unnecessary, and encourage local taxing units to consolidate.

Thank you for allowing the City to testify in support of this important legislation. We respectfully request that the Committee advance HB 2755 to the full House for approval.