

**HB 2756 TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION
KENDALL KEPLEY, OWNER
KEP'S MENSWEAR, GARDEN CITY, KS
March 1, 2018**

Chairman Johnson and Members of the House Committee on Taxation,

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of House Bill 2756, the Main Street Parity Bill.

As the owner of a main street clothing store for over 35 years, I have seen many changes come to our Main Street and community as a whole. Because of Garden City's unique and remote location, our downtown and locally owned businesses have benefitted from the fact that we are the regional hub of western Kansas. For the same reason, I recognize the fact that internet sales have allowed us to maintain our populations in the rural areas.

Finney County and the Garden City area have always strived to make the most of our community for our citizens. Our local government officials have made responsible decisions for the residents of Finney County, and our recent increase in sales tax revenue due to the opening of many new retail businesses is a great example. Our locally elected officials have chosen to reinvest portions of that revenue back into our community, much of it being dedicated to the betterment of our downtown district, so that our residents can experience the best quality of life possible.

As a small business owner, I dutifully collect and pay the sales tax due to our state and local governments. It is now time to act on capturing the sales tax generated from internet sales, holding internet retailers to the same standards that we hold our brick and mortar retailers to. All feasible opportunities to increase revenues for the State should be examined and considered.

As a small business owner, I support the collection of internet sales tax in Kansas and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

*Kendall Kepley
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