

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Representative Steven Johnson, Chairman  
**From:** Ken McCauley, Kansas Corn Growers Association  
**Date:** March 6, 2018  
**Re:** HB 2740 - Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

Good afternoon, Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in opposition to HB 2740 on behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association (KCGA). My name is Ken McCauley. I am a corn and soybean farmer from White Cloud, Kansas. I am also the current president of KCGA. KCGA is the association representing the interests of corn growers in the state of Kansas.

Over the past two decades, state and local units of government have become more and more dependent on property tax revenues to fund their programs. There has been a major shift away from income taxes towards property taxes. Obviously, there are many factors affecting this trend. It is disappointing that nearly doubling the state wide mill levy to fund schools is being considered as an option to address the K-12 funding issues faced in this state.

Kansas farmers have especially felt the increased reliance on property taxes to fund government in Kansas. Farmers are facing significant economic challenges to make ends meet while paying ever increasing property taxes. This bill will only exacerbate that problem.

In conclusion, KCGA strongly opposes the near doubling of state property taxes as proposed in HB 2740. I would stand for questions at the appropriate time.