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Kansas Contractors Association

Written Testimony

By the Kansas Contractors Association

before the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

In opposition to SCR 1602 regarding the Taxpayers Bill of Rights

March 15, 2017

The Kansas Contractors Association, an organization which has been in existence since 1923 and **represents over 235 companies** is opposing SCR 1602.

This measure and its derivatives would call for a statewide vote anytime the legislature considered a tax increase or decrease. Such a move would be costly and lead many to wonder if we even need a legislature in the first place.

Our organization strongly believes in a Representative Democracy which allows our elected leaders to determine what is best for the state. Such a body is better informed and able to make correct decisions on complicated issues after studying the issues better than the general public.

If this resolution had been enacted in Kansas in the early 90's college tuition would have increased dramatically, the child to teacher ratio in K-12 schools would have increased from 15 to 23, needed prisons would not have been built and health care for the underprivileged would have been dropped.

In addition, we believe this may have hampered the expenditures of the past three transportation programs which created jobs, provided a safe and reliable highway program and allowed farmers to get their product to market.

The Kansas Contractors Association urges you to vote against any TABOR legislation as it would severely handicap our economic future including the transportation program.