

March 14, 2017

Chair Caryn Tyson and the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee:

Ed Patton, City Manager, City of Herington

Re: Written Testimony in Support of SB 167.

Caryn,

I represent a rural community. The Tax Lid is as ominous as its name. The Kansas Legislature has made it clear that communities like ours is nothing more than fodder to scrape off of its shoes. Our ability to provide services and infrastructure is dependent on representation at the state level of government. Many citizens are very tired of the rhetoric coming from Topeka. The community is tired of having its budget ignored for the sake of larger, more compact cities.

The Governor fails to either see or address the issues harming rural Kansans! We are tired of our democracy being "experimented" with. The Legislature is more caring for those that have than those that "Have Not!" The Tax Lid is sending our communities into a death spiral by utilizing the 1.4% revenue cap for our local budgets. Our infrastructures are old and in need of great repair because rural Kansas has been ignored by the majority in Topeka and the Governor continues to hammer KDOT.

Being a rural community means we still utilize several of the old fashioned outhouses for plumbing. Which is exactly why HB 2088 is hung on the wall in many of them.....right where it belongs! Thanks for your time and prove to us we are still part of Kansas by Supporting SB 167!!!