



To the Committee on Assessment and Taxation:

Thank you Chairman and Members of the Committee. My name is Jeff Glendening, and I am the Kansas State Director of Americans for Prosperity, the nation's largest free market grassroots organization, with over 3 million activists across the country. On behalf of over 50,000 AFP activists in Kansas, I urge you to reject Senate Bill 224, which would unnecessarily raise taxes on gasoline at a time when our state government is refusing to spend our tax dollars responsibly.

Our problem is not that taxes are too low, but that spending is too high. Spending in the state of Kansas has grown far too fast in recent years, against the warnings of free market activists who cautioned such fiscal irresponsibility would cause problems later down the line. Our state government simply has not been budgeting responsibly, and the state's all-funds budget has increased by [well over \\$1 billion](#) since 2013. With such a poor fiscal track record, it's no wonder some in the legislature are trying to take more from Kansas taxpayers. Don't let them.

The gas tax is an especially bad tax for a number of reasons. First of all, low earners in Kansas spend a greater portion of income on transportation and energy costs, and would see a disproportionate share of their costs increase as a result of this bill. Second, the gas tax doesn't just raise cost of gas, but of everything that depends on gas. Food, clothing, and all kinds of other goods that need gas in order to be shipped will become more costly if this careless tax hike passes. The economic impact will be wide-reaching and affect far more than just the price of gas at the pump, and is therefore an unpredictable and reckless way to address the budget deficit.

We should streamline the regulatory process in order to boost growth, and explore public-private partnerships as a way of reducing overhead costs on public projects. Even more generally, we should eliminate corporate welfare carve-outs that needlessly deprive the Kansas government of revenue and drive up rates elsewhere in the state. Any single one of these commonsense reforms would be preferable to the unnecessary, unpredictable, and unfair tax hike that would be imposed by SB 224.

I urge you to reject this inadvisable measure, and vote NO on SB 224.

Jeff Glendening

Kansas State Director

Americans for Prosperity