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May 3, 2017

To: Kansas Senate Taxation Committee

From: Joe Grisolano, Crawford County Treasurer

SUBJECT: HB 2228

Senator Tyson and Committee members:

I am providing written testimony to support HB 2228 on behalf of the Kansas County Treasurers Association. This legislation removes the requirement that land bank properties must file an initial request for exemption to the Board of Tax Appeals. Currently, K.S.A. 12-5909 (b) requires the County Treasurer to remove from the tax rolls, all taxes, assessments, charges, penalties and interest that are due and payable on the property at the time of acquisition by the land bank board.

The land bank must then file for exemption with the Board of Tax Appeals to keep the exemption in place. HB 2228 simply removes this time consuming additional task for land bank properties. The process will be more efficient by eliminating this requirement that can sometimes take several weeks to complete.

In conclusion, I ask you to support this legislation. It provides a simple solution that benefits cities with land banks and counties where land bank properties are located. Thank you for your consideration and allowing me to submit this testimony.