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Roy Eckert  
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January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019

To: Chairman Johnson and the House Taxation Committee  
From: Roy Eckert, Pratt City Manager

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2063

Dear Chairman Johnson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in favor of HB 2063. This bill is the result of legal research about what potential options exist to govern all property within the Pratt city limits and what would be necessary to transfer the taxing authority of the Pratt Airport Authority to the City of Pratt should the Airport Authority ever be dissolved. A bill was passed last year which took care of the policy provisions needed should the City of Pratt ever wish to dissolve the Pratt Airport Authority. HB2063 is needed so that if the Authority was abolished, the current taxing authority of the Pratt Airport Authority, which is capped at four mils by KSA 27-322, could be transferred to the City of Pratt without requiring a vote under the tax lid.

We have worked closely with the Revisor, the League of Kansas Municipalities, and consulted with the Kansas Association of Counties to ensure that the bill being offered is uniform and would apply equally to all taxing entities and therefore not harm the underlying tax lid policy that the Legislature has established. I request that this compromise language, as found in HB 2063, be the policy adopted by the Legislature. This language stipulates that any tax levy increase to the City, which would be caused by another taxing entity being dissolved, that it could be transferred as long as the levy increase does not exceed the levy of the dissolved taxing entity.

I am certain that this situation could be faced by multiple different municipalities and taxing entities which may consider consolidation at some point in the future. This is a strong improvement to the tax lid and will also encourage the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Thank you for your favorable consideration.