



City Administrator Halley

2/13/19

Halley Roberson
City Administrator
Oberlin Kansas
1 Morgan Drive
Oberlin, KS 67749
HB 2261 - Testimony For: House Taxation Committee

Dear Chairman Johnson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about the subject of lowering grocery sales tax proposed in House Bill 2261.

All of us here are dedicated to government service; through this service we all work to improve the lives of those in our community. Your community reach is much larger than mine. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the committee by taking such a proactive stance with the introduction of House Bill 2261 proposing a much needed reduction of the tax assessed to groceries.

Oberlin is a rural community in northwestern Kansas bordering the Nebraska state line. And right across the state line is a super Wal-Mart. The high taxes now on groceries place the local grocery store in a position where they simply cannot compete. It is hard enough for any independent business to compete with any corporate conglomerate; add to this equation an additional 6.5% tax the independent business has to contend with and just a few miles away it is not a consideration the grocery tax debilitates this business before it can even start, let alone compete.

As an administrator I have to watch a local business struggle, and any sales tax revenue simply drive out of town. When we all work so hard to facilitate vibrant commerce in our local communities; or in the case of this committee our extended communities situations like this are hard to handle.

I would again like to thank the committee for proposing this legislation, and encourage you to continue to support this bill. So we can all have a positive impact on the communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Halley Roberson

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