

Date: March 9, 2020

To: Chairman Steven Johnson and House Taxation Committee Members

From: Kendal Francis, City Administrator, Great Bend, Kansas

Subject: Written Only Testimony in Opposition to HB 2656

Dear Chairman Johnson:

I am providing testimony on behalf of the City of Great Bend in opposition of HB 2656.

This bill would redirect all proceeds from a county-wide sales tax, which and previously been shared with cities, to the county. In 2019, such a change would have resulted in \$264.9 million being redistributed from cities to counties. For the City of Great Bend, that annual revenue from the Barton County sales tax averages \$2.3million/year. Approximately 90% of the total tax collected in Barton County comes from sales made in Great Bend. Those monies are transferred to the city's General Fund and are used to fund police, fire/EMS services and parks, all the while helping to keep property taxes low. Loss of that revenue would force us to either reduce the level of services provided or increase property taxes to help offset the loss.

Based on this testimony, the City of Great Bend requests that you not pass out HB 2656.

Sincerely,



Kendal Francis

City Administrator