

CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE



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Date: March 12, 2020

To: Chairman Steven Johnson and House Taxation Committee Members

From: Michael Webb, City Manager, City of Edwardsville, Kansas

Re: Written Only -Testimony in Opposition to HB 2656

Chairman Johnson and Committee Members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2656 on behalf of the City of Edwardsville, Wyandotte County.

The proposed amendments to K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 12-192 eliminating the apportionment of countywide retailer's sales taxes will adversely impact the provision of municipal services and further create a dependence on local property taxes in Kansas. In 2019, county sales and use tax apportionments for Edwardsville were approximately \$834,000. This represents more than 14% of the City's total revenues and is equivalent to nearly 12 mills of property taxes. The loss of revenue created by the bill is the equivalent of 43% of our fire and EMS department budget, or 37% of our police department budget, or nearly two times our public works department budget. None of these departments, or any others in the city, could withstand such reductions in their budgets and continue to maintain the high level of services our citizen's demand.

Clearly, the passage of this bill WILL result in the reduction of critical public services including police, fire, EMS and public works or a significant increase in property taxes or a combination of both in Edwardsville and cities across Kansas. The apportionment formula has worked for decades to ensure all Kansas citizens receive critical basic public services. Please oppose HB 2656.

Michael Webb

City Manager
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