

To: Chairman Johnson and House Taxation Committee Members
 From: Richard LaMunyon, City Administrator
 Date: March 12, 2020
 Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 294

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 294. While we are encouraged by the Senate's foresight in eliminating the tax lid as part of this bill, we still have a number of concerns and cannot support the bill in its present form. Some these concerns include:

- Truth in Taxation Statements
 - To paint the complete real picture of valuation increases, property taxpayers need to see a breakout between new growth and valuation increases in the calculation of the "revenue neutral rate."
 - Additionally, all jurisdictions need to be included on the truth in taxation statements. For example here is the true allocation of 2019 property taxes for a constituent living in Maize, Kansas:



- Refund of Tax Payments
 - Receiving a check for negligible amounts (as small as \$.01) would not be received favorably by any voter in Kansas as a prudent use of tax dollars. Providing for

the funds to be escrowed and returned as a credit on the next year's tax statement is a much more prudent use of taxpayer's money.

- Budget Management Concerns

- Timeline issues

- ✓ Requiring our governing bodies to adopt the mill levy at the same meeting as the truth-in-taxation hearing will not enable us to adequately respond or adjust the budget due to voters' concerns.
- ✓ The truth-in-taxation hearings in September are in conflict with the current August deadlines for budget adoption.
- ✓ The August 1st date has been the traditional target date, and should be the date information is due to the clerk under this bill.

- Cost control issues

- ✓ We request that limits are established for costs that the county clerk can bill back to taxing entities.

Again, the City of Maize is opposed to the current bill and requests, before Senate action is considered, it be withdrawn or additional modifications in favor of municipalities concerns be addressed.

Thank You,

Richard LaMunyon
Maize City Administrator