



To: House Taxation Committee
From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Date: 16 March 2020

Representative Johnson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the more than 800 business members of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 294.

Overland Park has the lowest mill levy of any first-class city in Kansas and citizen satisfaction surveys continually show that residents are happy with the level of service they receive in comparison to the taxes they pay. Beyond that, a fully transparent and public process is already in place affording taxpayers the opportunity to weigh in on any budget changes the City might consider.

We believe the bill provides complications that could lead to increased costs for taxpayers and contribute to more confusion for taxpayers rather than less.

We agree transparency is important – especially in matters dealing with the appropriation of public funds. However, we also believe that local units of government are best equipped to handle their affairs and we think this bill is both an intrusion on local control and imposition of a second, redundant tax lid. We urge you to reject SB 294.