



**KINGMAN**  
858 E. D Avenue • Phone 620-532-3851 • Fax 620-532-5189

February 16, 2019

Mr. Chairman and House Committee on Taxation:

Our family operates grocery stores in rural communities, four in Kansas (Kingman, Medicine Lodge, Phillipsburg and St. John) and one in Oklahoma (Pawnee). We have been in business since 1953 and in that time we have experienced the incredible changes all businesses have. We have attempted to adapt our business model to the changing marketplace and for those reasons we have been able to survive for over sixty-five years.

One identifiable fact is that low income families will spend a greater percentage of their income on food consumables as compared to higher income families. Even with the non-tax status of WIC and SNAP benefits, these low income families are facing a larger tax burden than many others.

Added to the significant loss of population, another trend we see in rural communities is the deterioration of the "upper" and "middle" middle class. We also note the demise and loss of the "business" class as our traditional Main Streets are disappearing from our communities.

These facts and trends and others, along with the constant pressure from low-cost national retailers as well as online shopping technological advances have put many small town retailers and grocers, in particular at risk for survival.

In addition the counties of Kansas that border Colorado and Nebraska are facing ever greater pressure because of the zero percent sales taxes in those bordering states. We simply believe in creating a more level sales tax situation that would help retailers in our state but that would more importantly give some relief to the lower income families of our state.

We ask that you please consider any sales tax on food relief for the citizens of our State.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

D. Pat White

Whites Foodliners



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