

Proponent Testimony for SB 151

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

Senator Rob Olson, District 23

March 13, 2019

(testimony to be orally presented)

Chairman Tyson and the members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to testify on why it is high time to update the limits on the out of control increases in everyone's property tax.

Let me state up front that SB 151 is a property tax cap on residential property and does not affect business property taxes.

SB 151 simply proposes to increase the property tax cap from \$20,000 to \$40,000.

On a home appraised at \$100,000 the current 20% exemption on appraised value saves the property owner forty-six dollars (\$46.00). Upon passage of SB 151 with the increased exemption of 40% the savings would be ninety-two dollars (\$92.00).

I support an increase in the property tax cap for the following reasons:

- Property tax increases across the state are out of control, yet the cap of \$20,000 in evaluations has remained the same. It has been too easy today for a county to raise property taxes through the appraisal process.
- I am hearing from more long time Kansans that can no longer afford to live in their Kansas homes. They have had enough and can be expected to applaud this measure.
- This change in the tax code will help seniors stay in their homes and remain in the state longer.
- Think about the corporate decision to relocate to Kansas. On the list of pros and cons as to where to locate Kansas is always on the "do not move to Kansas" side of the equation.
- Think about the rural family or business that can't afford health insurance benefits. And think about this. If they decide they must move, why would they want to stay in Kansas?
- We subsidize businesses with tax breaks and every time we do, we increase the burden on residential tax payers. I am not saying that economic development is always bad, but it is time to help lift some of the burden off residential taxpayers.

Let's do the right thing today and give residential property owners who pay a lot of other taxes a break. I strongly urge you to support the favorable passage of SB 151. Thank you for your consideration.

Senator Rob Olson, Kansas Senate District # 23