



Date: February 3, 2020

To: Chair Caryn Tyson and the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee:

From: Jim Benage, Mayor of Bel Aire, Kansas

Re: SB 294- Written Opponent Testimony

Thank you, Chairwoman and Committee, for allowing me to submit testimony on SB 294. The City of Bel Aire is currently opposed to this legislation because it is a fundamentally flawed bill.

Last December, the Tax Foundation recommended that Kansas repeal the tax lid and adopt the Utah model of Truth-in-Taxation. However, SB 294 is not the Utah model. The Utah model allows for new growth to be captured, and unlike the recommendation from the Tax Foundation, the bill doesn't repeal the tax lid.

The City of Bel Aire is growing at a rate of 100 homes per year because citizens from the surrounding area are choosing to build in Bel Aire. New homes with new residents increase the demand for services and SB 294 does not allow taxing entities to account for new growth. This is a major problem when trying to maintain adequate public safety coverage, infrastructure, and community amenities.

SB 294 greatly inhibits our ability to provide an appropriate level of service to a growing city. We urge you to leave local tax and spending decisions to local elected officials who ultimately answer to our local voters.

Sincerely,

Jim Benage  
Mayor, City of Bel Aire, Kansas