

## City of McPherson

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January 31, 2020

City of McPherson Opposition Testimony for Senate Bill 294 for February 05, 2020  
Senator Caryn Tyson, Assessment and Taxation Committee Chairman

Thank you Chairman for the opportunity to provide testimony to the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee in opposition of Senate Bill 294 on behalf of the City of McPherson

We have a deep appreciation for your effort Senator Tyson and the senators of this committee to find an alternative to current tax lid for cities and counties. Senate Bill 294 in its current form addresses only a part of the problem. Local governments already publish the budget and hold hearings on the budget. Mailing a hard copy of the proposed mill levy is a difficult process in the limited time period and adds additional cost better utilized for other community needs not wants.

The impact of annual inflation on necessary community goods and services is currently running at least 3%. Large projects for streets, sewer replacement and water treatment increase at least 5% annually. The cost for law enforcement, fire department services and EMS services grow each year requiring innovative ideas to provide the required level of health and safety to the community.

We would like to work with you to have a CPI factor in the calculation of the certified rate. We would ask for exemptions for health and safety requirements. If this concept is modified, we ask for a sunset of the current tax lid to coincide with the effective date of this concept having an implementation date for the 2021 local budgets.

After 33 years a similar concept in Utah restricted local services and maintenance too much. Since 2018, double and triple property tax rates have been necessary. See the Salt Lake City article link: <https://www.sltrib.com/news/politics/2018/07/14/did-truth-taxation-law/>  
We need to pursue new concepts then take the best parts and make the Kansas concept even better.

It is our hope you will see value in our suggestions. We value you and your commitment to Kansas citizens. We want a win for all citizens and good government at the State and local levels. We want a plan to help the development and implementation of the Kansas Framework for Growth. We need your support to achieve local sustainability for citizens, counties and cities.

Thank you for Chairman Tyson and this committee for allowing my testimony.

Thomas A. Brown, Mayor

Mayor

*Thomas A. Brown*

Commissioner of Public Facilities

*Gary L. Mehl*

Commissioner of Public Works

*Larry E. Wiens*