



DICKINSON COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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February 4th, 2020

Honorable Kansas Senators: Caryn Tyson - Chairman, Dan Kerschen, Tom Holland,
Larry Alley, Dan Goddard, Jeff Longbine, Julia Lynn, Vic Miller, Mike Peterson

RE: SB 294

Chairman Tyson and Distinguished Committee Members,

Figuring mill levies across a county that has 146 taxing units is very complicated. SB 294 as currently proposed would require the current mill levy to be set based on the prior year's property tax dollars for the upcoming budget year. Normal budget increases due to health insurance (10%), oil for road maintenance (10%), coroner and autopsy expenses (66%), or inmate medical costs (41%) would all require us to send a detailed statement listing these increases to every property owner in the county and hold a public hearing.

Annually in Dickinson County we print and mail 14,000 tax statements at a cost of over \$8,000. Sending another statement and notice of public hearing with the date, time and location, doubles that cost to our tax payers. The added costs imposed by SB 294 **increases the tax burden on our citizens even more.**

As currently proposed SB 294 doesn't account for the exemptions currently in place for Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, CPI increases, new growth, expiring tax abatements, or even addresses the current tax lid we are working under, all of which create even more confusion and difficulties.

Additionally, the time frames to certify the tax rate to the division of accounts and reports, give them time to review the tax rate, set the public hearing and follow the 10-day notification, hold the truth in taxation hearing, vote on the tax increase, and certify the adopted budget to the county clerk does not work. The county clerk will not have sufficient time to calculate the final tax levy rate and deliver to the county treasurer per K.S.A. 79-1803. These are but a few of the issues that arise when reviewing the current version of SB 294 that you need to be aware of.

Thank you for considering my concerns regarding SB 294.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janelle Dockendorf".

Janelle Dockendorf
Dickinson County Budget Director