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

RE: SB 294

Thank you for allowing me to express my opposition to SB 294. As the Sumner County Clerk and Election Official, I support transparency and truth in taxation. I do find the bill, as it is currently written, will be expensive, confusing and difficult to implement.

As I interpret this bill, we are to use current year valuations with prior year mill levy to calculate the tax bill. This would be an inaccurate figure to present to a taxpayer.

Currently, state law mandates that each taxing unit publishes each individual proposed budget with a date and time for public hearing. This is the opportunity for taxpayers to attend the budget hearings for the purpose of discussion with their respective elected officials the proposed budget. It would be nearly impossible to comply with overlapping scheduling of public hearings as we have cities, townships, school districts, cemetery districts, fire districts, drainage districts and improvement districts to work with.

Sending notification to each tax payer, at the cost of the taxing entity, would create a funding nightmare. It would create an additional expense to the taxpayer as this is how most receive funding for the various budgets.

Thank you for your time and consideration on the concerns expressed on SB 294.

Respectfully,

Debra A. Norris
Sumner County Clerk and Election Official