



Pawnee County

KANSAS

715 Broadway
Larned, KS 67550
Telephone (620) 285-3721
Fax (620) 285-2559

OFFICE OF PAWNEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
From: Pawnee County Commissioners
Date: February 3, 2020
Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 294

Senator Tyson and members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, thank you for taking a few moments to consider our comments on behalf of Pawnee County. When we became aware of SB 294 it was incumbent on us to provide you the thoughts of a community in rural Kansas.

Senate Bill 294 will put an undue burden on all County entities here and across our great state. The Kansas Legislature has already imposed a Tax Lid that unduly regulates County taxation and requires notices and election approval if Counties raise taxes above the Tax Lid. We are unable to even keep abreast of rising healthcare premiums for our employees with the tax lid in place.

Unlike the Tax Lid, Senate Bill 294 does NOT even include exemptions for tax increases needed for public safety in Law Enforcement, Fire, or Emergency Medical Services, the very services that protect the Citizens who elected us. We believe that Senate Bill 294 would actually cause Counties to increase taxes initially and make larger increases in the future because of the additional costs incurred by the County Clerk's office for additional, extensive mailings and additional costs to Counties for hearings.

Senate Bill 294 would further burden Counties with an additional layer of Red Tape and excessive publication of notifications and mailing costs for even a minimal increase in taxes. We oppose Senate Bill 294 and urge this Committee to not pass this measure out of Committee.

Thank you for reviewing our comments.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS
PAWNEE COUNTY, KANSAS

Bob Rein Jr., Board Chairman

Phillip Hammeke, County Commissioner

Deborah Lewis, County Commissioner