

Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Senate Bill 360

Sherwood Improvement District

Testimony by Doug Mays, Board Treasurer

March 10, 2020

Madame Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 360.

Senate Bill 360 would allow the Board of Directors of the Sherwood Improvement District (District) to place a measure on the ballot seeking voter approval of a sales tax not to exceed 1.0% within the District.

The Sherwood Improvement District is not within the City of Topeka but is in Shawnee County. The district consists of 29 miles of paved roads and streets serving approximately 5000 residents.

The District has an annual budget of approximately \$513,000 that is used to pay for sheriff's patrols and protection, street repair, drainage repair, sand removal, and general maintenance throughout the District. The District was created over forty years ago and has an aging infrastructure. In addition, for over twenty years, areas immediately surrounding the District have continued to develop increasing the amount of road, storm water and drainage problems within the District. Over the past eight years the District has performed drainage improvements needed to accommodate outside development in excess of \$200,000. Currently roadway and drainage improvements are budgeted for approximately \$450,000 each year.

There are commercial properties within the district within the District, some of which offer retail sales. The major retailer in the District is Dillons Food Store at 29th Street and Urish Road. It is our understanding that Dillons is aware of this legislation and has not expressed any concerns or opposition. If adopted by the District's voters, we anticipate the sales tax revenue will increase our maintenance fund by \$50,000-\$100,000. This would allow for the mill and overlay of 1500-3000 feet of our roadway each year.

Thank you, Madame Chair. I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.