



427 COURT, P O BOX 117 • CLAY CENTER, KS 67432
Phone: [785] 632-5454 • Fax: [785] 632-3943 • www.cityofclaycenter.com

"The City Beautiful"

Date: March 12, 2020

To: Chairwoman Caryn Tyson and Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee Members

From: Randy Rundle, Council President

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 396

Chairwoman Tyson and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 396 on behalf of the City of Clay Center.

The City of Clay Center uses the proceeds of the countywide sales tax to replace old and unsafe equipment, street maintenance, and purchases of safety equipment for all departments. In addition, the proceeds help fund unforeseen and unbudgeted projects that are deemed necessary to normal day to day operations.

It would be a great financial burden to not have these funds available as it would start a cycle of not being able to update unsafe equipment or make necessary repairs as needed.

We received in calendar year 2019, \$179,801.32 from the countywide sales tax.

We are currently paying on a bond issue for street improvements with the help of this tax.

The impact on the City of Clay Center would be detrimental. Services would have to be cut as well as a reduction in staff as there would be limited funds available. This would be devastating for us as we are currently understaffed. Eliminating jobs is nothing any community wants to see.

There would be further challenges with the current tax lid in place. If we were not to receive the countywide sales tax, it would force us to raise the mill levy. This, as you know is not an easy process and it would also put the taxpayers at a disadvantage when property taxes increase.