

January 29,2021

Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

The tax rebate on food is a step in the right direction but concerned the reduction is not significant enough for citizens to notice yet a real strain for the state. It can be perceived as some sort of a win but is it the win we want or should we work for a deeper reduction and provide meaningful relief.

Oberlin is border town to Nebraska and loses numerous local shoppers to Nebraska for the discount on food due sales tax. This is especially troubling for our rural community because there is only 1 grocery store in the county. This year the owner passed away and the family is looking to sell the store. Without being able to compete due to such high food tax the store is not appealing to investors and the county is at high risk of becoming a food desert, leaving our extreme poor and elderly without a reliable food source.

While the tax rebate is a step in the right direction my hope is the committee continues to work for Kansans to reduce and eventually eliminate tax on food.

Respectfully,

Haley Roberson  
City Administrator, Oberlin, Kansas