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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TIMOTHY H. JOHNSON  
38TH DISTRICT

February 10, 2021

Chairman Rep. Adam Smith  
House Taxation Committee

RE: HB2197 by T. Johnson & Neelly “Taxation abatement on  
Natural disasters”

Honorable Chairman Smith:

Please accept this letter as a proponent for HB 2197 which is pending before your committee and if possible I would request permission to speak briefly before the hearing scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>. Please consider this letter and attachments as my presentation notes.

I experienced the tornado in Douglas and Leavenworth Counties first hand on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019. I am thankful that my family which included my wife, son, daughter-in-law, and grandsons age 2 and 4 at the time escaped without any injury as we were protected in the basement. I remember praying just before it hit, “Lord please protect these two precious children.”

We were protected and five minutes later surveyed the damage. While I looked around at the huge trees laying on the ground and damage to the roof and walls, it was amazing the building generally held together. Meanwhile our two year old wearing only a diaper walked out and pulled his tricycle out from under branches and began riding around his new obstacle course.

We had insurance, however damage to trees, out buildings, and water damage to the structure from massive amounts of water released by the storm cell were not covered as I did not have flood insurance because I lived on a hill. As of the date of this letter we have not yet restored our property to its’ prior level as we

continue to tackle things one at-a-time as we can afford it. I sent more paperwork in to the insurance company this week for the work on the interior.

So with my home suffering much damage and still as of January 2021 not finished being repaired, the County of Leavenworth has raised my 2020 assessed valuation roughly \$26,000 dollars. Their assessment noted a big increase in “improvements,” which apparently refers to the fact we had to get a roof put back on and other repairs to the building and out buildings so we could live there.

My situation is far from as bad as others in my southern Leavenworth community. Farmers and shop owners with buildings on their properties were penalized far more than we were. However the message is clear, this bill is needed to protect individuals from unfair taxation when natural disasters affect our state and I thank the committee and especially Sen. Holland for advancing this bill for a hearing.

I have attached some items for reference on the tornado disaster of May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

Respectfully,

Rep. Tim Johnson

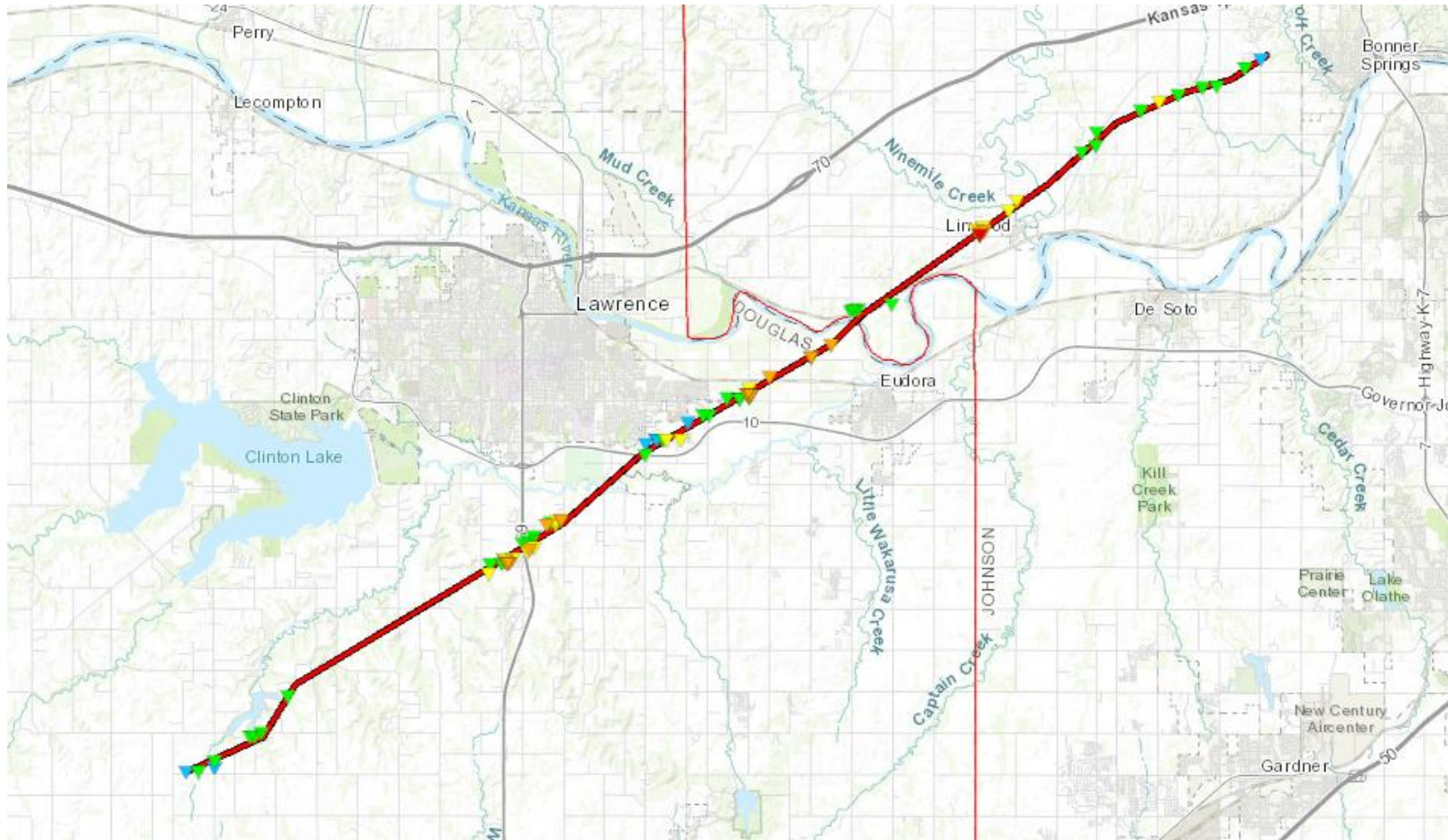
Attachments A-E  
cc: Rep. Neelly

Addendum A  
National Weather Service Data

## **Tornado - Douglas/Leavenworth County** Douglas and Leavenworth Counties

<b>Date</b>	28 May 2019
<b>Time (Local)</b>	06:05 PM CDT
<b>EF Rating</b>	EF - 4
<b>Est. Peak Winds</b>	170 MPH
<b>Path Length</b>	31.82 Miles
<b>Max Width</b>	1 mile
<b>Injuries/Deaths</b>	18 injuries; 0 fatalities
<b>Summary:</b>  The tornado developed in southwestern Douglas county Kansas and tracked to the east-northeast while strengthening. EF-3 damage occurred in northeastern Douglas county, then the storm gained strength and produced EF-4 damage in southern Leavenworth county Kansas.	

Addendum B  
National Weather Service Map of Tornado Path



Addendum C  
Tornado Cell over 170<sup>th</sup> & K-32 Highway



Addendum D  
Tornado over home of Tim Johnson from one mile away



Addendum E

Two year old grandson on tricycle after tornado



Note: almost 2 inches of rain fell in under 5 minutes as measured from the tricycle.

HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE

Cover Page

(Please complete and include this page with your written testimony)

Bill Number: HB 2197

Support: Yes

Oppose: \_\_\_\_\_

Neutral: \_\_\_\_\_

Testimony Will Be: Oral In-person: Yes Oral WebEx: \_\_\_\_\_ Written Only \_\_\_\_\_

For Meeting On: February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Testimony By: Rep. Tim Johnson

On Behalf Of: Sponsor of bill and victim of tornado disaster

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