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Rep. Adam Smith, Chair

Rep. Les Mason, Vice Chair

Rep. Jim Gartner, Ranking Minority Member

**Committee on Assessment and Taxation**

Kaden Wimmer, Deputy Cherokee County Clerk

Monday, February 15, 2021

## **Support for S.B. No. 21, Approving election for sales tax authority for Cherokee County**

Today, I write to you to support S.B. 21 that will approve a sales tax in Cherokee County to provide additional funding to our EMS services. Cherokee County residents cast their voice back in November with an overwhelming 3/4 vote in favor of this sales tax. In addition, to funding our EMS services, this tax continuation will also provide necessary funding for renovations and maintenance of county buildings and facilities.

The question was phrased on the ballot as a tax continuation to help the general public understand that this will not increase their sales taxes from years past but rather continue the current rate to provide additional funding for our EMS and county services. Since Kansas does not recognize a tax continuation, this bill will approve and acknowledge a "new sales tax" since the former tax was set to end in 2020.

First Responders have always been the backbone of our great nation, and during this pandemic, those heroes answered the call yet again to protect their local communities. Our First Responders need our support to help our citizens and be able to purchase the necessary equipment they need to keep the people of Cherokee County, themselves, and their families safe.

I strongly urge the committee to pass S.B. 21 and bring it to the house floor. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.