



January 25, 2022

Testimony in Support of HB 2487
House Taxation

Chairman Smith and Members of the House Taxation Committee:

The Northeast Johnson County cities of Merriam, Mission, Prairie Village, and Westwood Hills express their general support for HB 2487. We support elimination of the state sales tax on food, but we do not support eliminating cities' portion of sales tax on food including sales tax on farm products sold at farmers' markets. The revenue generated by the local portion of the food sales tax is important in our ability to provide services for our communities. Further, as cities, we believe that local sales tax decisions are best left up to locally elected officials.

As a regressive tax, the state sales tax on food impacts our most vulnerable citizens who are trying to make ends meet. Passage of HB 2487 helps level the playing field for Kansas families, while also bringing Kansas in closer alignment with other states on this issue. As one of the states with the highest sales tax on groceries, the elimination of the 6.5% state portion is a step toward easing the burden for Kansas families to pay for food. Additionally, as cities located on the border with Missouri, we are keenly aware how much this bill can help protect Kansas grocers currently losing business to Missouri, where the state food sales tax rate is only 1.225%.

Again, we support HB 2487, so long as local control is maintained with respect to levying sales tax on food. With the state's most robust projected ending balance in decades, HB 2487 is a small price to pay for the health and prosperity of Kansas families and communities. For these reasons we ask you to support HB 2487 and preserve local government's ability to determine the local sales tax levy. Thank you for your consideration and I welcome any questions you may have on this matter.

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