



KANSAS RURAL CENTER

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January 25, 2022

Testimony in Support of HB 2487 House Taxation

Chairman Smith and Members of the House Taxation Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent of HB 2487. I'm the Executive Director of the Kansas Rural Center, which has been working to build an economically viable, ecologically sound and socially just farming and food system for Kansans for over 40 years. This year our organization has joined with partners to form the Kansas Food and Farm Coalition. The Kansas Food and Farm Coalition is a group of long-standing Kansas nonprofit organizations concerned about our food system - from farm to fork. One of the key goals of our Food and Farm Coalition is the elimination of the sales tax on food.

I'm writing to support HB 2487 to eliminate the sales and use tax on the sales of food and food ingredients. While HB 2484 will also eliminate sales tax on food, HB 2487 bill will not only help all Kansans as they save money with each food purchase, but it will also have an additional benefit for many farmers. The provision to extend the elimination of sales tax to all farm products sold at farmers' markets is a valuable one that will support small farms across the state who sell a variety of farm products. These farmers must manage many tasks to run a successful operation, making cropping decisions, managing weather, controlling weeds and pests, marketing their products and managing their business' finances. Removing the burden of sales tax collection from them will help simplify the task of running a successful direct to consumer business for these farmers. This will not only help the farmers and their businesses but provide additional value for communities across Kansas. As we have seen during the pandemic, when larger supply chains are disrupted, the local food system and farmers selling products directly to consumers is critical to food security and community resilience.

HB2487 will provide a benefit to all Kansans, and it will especially support farmers who market their products directly to consumers. We ask you to support this bill.

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