



**GREATER KC
FOOD POLICY
COALITION**
kchealthykids

March 2, 2022

Steering Committee
Greater KC Food Policy Coalition
Proponents for HB2711 and HB2720
House Committee on Taxation

Chairman Smith and members of the committee,

The Greater KC Food Policy Coalition convenes diverse stakeholders to advocate for an equitable, sustainable, and resilient food system in the greater Kansas City region. On behalf of our 22 steering committee members, I am voicing our support for HB2711 and HB2720 to eliminate the state food sales tax.

State sales tax takes food off the table.

In 2021, 13% of Kansans lacked access to enough food.¹ When the budget is tight, consumers make tough choices. Eliminating the state food sales tax would put hundreds of dollars back into Kansans pockets every year to buy more groceries.

Taxing groceries is bad for business.²

The state food sales tax has a negative impact on rural grocers' profit and their employees' compensation. It also drives consumers across state lines to save money on groceries. Forty of Kansas' counties share a border with neighboring states, which exempt food purchases or tax food at a lower rate.

The state can cover the bill.

Since 2014 we have received overwhelming bipartisan support for this issue. Now the state has the revenue to cover the bill without harming the budget. Amendments can be made to HB2711 and HB2720 so state funds are not depleted down the road.

We encourage you to support the full elimination of the state food sales tax at the start of the 2022 fiscal year. Food is the one thing we all buy, and every Kansan gets a bite of this tax cut.

Sincerely,

Leigh Wagner

Leigh Wagner, PhD, RDN
Chairperson, Greater KC Food Policy Coalition

¹ The Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity. Feeding America. 2021.

² Kansas Public Finance Center. Wichita State University. 2016.