



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Randy Leis, Meade County Commissioner
Before the House Committee on Taxation
Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1611
and House Concurrent Resolution No. 5025
March 19, 2024**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Kiowa

Lane

Logan

Meade

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Rush

Russell

Scott

Seward

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

I'm Randy Leis, Meade County Commissioner. I also chair the Kansas Legislative Policy Task Force. It is a nonpartisan, non-profit group of 33 rural Kansas counties working together on issues of mutual interest. KLPNG is one of the oldest local government associations in Kansas, founded nearly 50 years ago.

As you know, property taxes are an important source of revenue for local governments, and we think these measures are concerning. Counties are challenged to provide the services they need to their residents within our limited and sometimes declining resources.

As locally elected officials, we support fair and equitable tax policies and know that reducing the property tax burden is extremely important and we take it very seriously in our county's budget process each year.

We are concerned that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1611 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 5025 move away from critical elements of fairness and uniformity in tax policy, while weakening our local tax base and shifting tax liability to other property classes or simply to new construction within a class. The current decline in value in certain classifications of agricultural and commercial property has already affected county budgeting. The home value limits set by these proposed legislative measures will create further disparities between taxpayers and make it harder for some counties to maintain operations let alone plan public investments for growth.

Not all housing markets are the same, many counties do not see the same housing market or appreciation rate as others. However, these constitutional amendments apply property tax policy to each county without flexibility, making it difficult for individual adjustments to meet community needs.

Please consider these points when considering Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1611 and House Concurrent Resolution No. 5025.

Thank you for your consideration.