



CITY OF HAYSVILLE, KANSAS

200 W. GRAND AVENUE - P.O. BOX 404 - HAYSVILLE, KS 67060
(316) 529-5900 - FAX (316) 529-5925 - WWW.HAYSVILLE-KS.COM

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March 9, 2023

House Committee on Taxation
Hearing: Monday, March 13, 2023, 3:30 p.m.
Room 346-S

Re: Testimony in opposition of SB 248

To Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

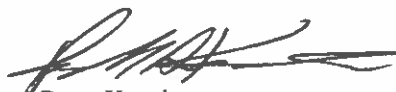
The elimination of local sales tax on groceries, food, and food ingredients would have a detrimental impact on cities. The share Haysville receives of the countywide sales tax is used to support both the General Fund and the Capital Improvements Fund. During the last Sedgwick County Commission Meeting, it was shared that an estimated 15% of the countywide tax would go away if SB 248 is enacted. This would be a loss of \$300,000 to the City of Haysville. With half of this amount supporting the General Fund, an increase of 1.97 mills would be needed to cover the loss of revenues in the general fund alone.

During the 2022 legislative session, representatives said they would protect the local sales tax on groceries while phasing out the state sales tax over three years. What has changed since then? Why are lawmakers working to eliminate local sales taxes that were established for a specific purpose and by a vote of the people? Voters approved the 1% sales tax in Haysville to be used for streets, parks, and recreation in the city. If the will of the legislature is to fast track the elimination of the state sales tax on groceries as proposed in SB 248, at least consider amending the bill to leave whole the local sales tax and remove only the state rate.

If an amendment to protect local sales taxes on groceries is not added, I urge you to vote "No" on SB 248. Our voters approved the local sales tax and expect it to be used to improve our streets, parks, and recreation opportunities in Haysville.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding SB 248.

Sincerely,



Russ Kessler
Mayor