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March 9, 2023

Representative Smith and the House Taxation Committee

As City Clerk for the City of Olsburg, Kansas and Treasurer for the City of Olsburg, Kansas, we would like to submit this testimony in opposition of SB 248.

The City of Olsburg has a population of 220 people and heavily rely on sales tax dollars for approximately 25% of our annual budget. To have those dollars lost means we are tremendously restricted in meeting our budgetary requirements and our ability to provide much needed services to our community.

Like other cities, large and small, our budget for 2023 was in-part based on sales tax dollars we believed we would receive through sales tax on food but would be phased out over time. Voters in our community also believed this to be the case.

Our belief was that we would have a three-year window to make the appropriate adjustments in our budgets before the “food tax” would totally expire. Removing the sales tax on food completely at this time does not give small towns like ours, the time to make changes we could otherwise put in place over time.

The negative impact of completely removing the food sales tax is detrimental to our community. We ask that you vote NO on SB 248. If that is not possible, amend it so local sales tax levies on food, food ingredients and groceries are made whole again, as is the current law.

Thank you for your time, and your service our State and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Johnson  
City Clerk  
City of Olsburg, Kansas

Gregg Gibson  
Treasurer  
City of Olsburg, Kansas