



Letter of Support for SB 7

KS Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Reduction of Income Tax Rates for Residents of Rural Equity Decline Counties

Submitted on behalf of Harper County, Kansas

January 23, 2023

Chairman Tyson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ami DeLacerda and I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Harper County, Kansas, in support of **Senate Bill 7**.

SB7 would reduce state income tax rates for individuals residing in rural equity decline counties, such as Harper County, by half.

Passage of this bill would greatly benefit the residents of Harper and surrounding counties by increasing net wages, allowing more of our earnings to be spent locally on the day to day necessities such as groceries, fuel, childcare and healthcare. The increase in cash flow this would provide to our residents would trickle down, benefiting local businesses, allowing for job creation and community growth. At the very least, it would help our residents afford the ever-increasing cost of living.

We would, however, like to see this bill include a more detailed description of which events would trigger the loss of rural equity decline county status. Our suggestion would be to institute a set number or percentage of population increase that would result in the loss of status, or possibly require an increase over consecutive decennials, rather than just one.

We reside in what is considered a rural equity decline county. We choose to live here because we love this community and the way of life that it provides. In making the decision to live and work in Harper County, we are also accepting the challenges that come with small-town living. Everyday items aren't as readily available as they are in larger communities, therefore the cost of these things is often higher. Our businesses, while successful, creative, and well managed, are operating on a smaller scale and often, a smaller budget than similar businesses located in larger communities, resulting in fewer employment opportunities and lower wages. The public services once provided to our residents have slowly been eliminated due to decreased government funding and increased administration requirements and costs. Unfortunately, the need and demand for these services remains high.

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In a nutshell, we view this bill as an opportunity for the State of Kansas to give our residents and business owners a much needed and well-deserved break and the potential to continue to improve and to grow.

We support the passage of SB7, and respectfully request your vote to do the same.

Sincerely,



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