

Kansas State Capitol
State House Committee on Taxation
Topeka, Kansas
February 18, 2013

RE: HB 2244

Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of this committee.

My name is Kent Craft. I am the Legislative Liaison for the Kansas BASS Nation. Our President, Don Leatherman, is a Kansas Highway Patrolman in Liberal and is unable to be here due to his assignments and has asked me to speak in his behalf and in behalf of the hundreds of watercraft owners in our organization in supporting HB 2244.

For the past four to five years, I have presented testimony to the House and Senate Committees on Taxation in support of the reduction of the Personal Property Tax on watercraft. Last year, prior to the November election, we visited with marine dealers, watercraft manufactures, those selling marine products and contacted thousands of watercraft owners and non- boat owners asking them to show their support in the reduction of the extremely high personal property tax on watercraft by voting "yes" to HCR 5017. As a result, at least 53% of the Kansas voters agreed with us by passing this amendment. I am sure that 53% of the Kansas voters do not own watercraft. Which, to us, means hundreds of non-watercraft owners agree with us that the present method used to tax watercraft needs to be changed and the tax lowered.

Recently, we asked BASS Nation Presidents how their state taxed their watercraft. Not only did we find that Kansas's personal property tax on watercraft and their trailers is head and shoulders above most other states, we also found out that many states do not impose a property tax on their resident's watercraft and trailers. However, many impose a one time or annual registration fee.

During the time it has taken to get the legislation to this point, I have been asked numerous times by people who want purchase a new boat or upgrade their present boat, when will the lowering of taxes become a reality because they

cannot afford the increase in taxes. Passing HB 2244 would help resolve this problem.

In addition, we believe passing of this bill will help bring watercraft presently registered out of state, back to Kansas thus increasing revenue to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism through increased registration sales, help Marine Dealers through the increase sales of new and used watercraft, help watercraft manufactures, encourage watercraft owners to upgrade, help businesses who sell marine products, increase revenue through the money generated by the sales tax and with the increased number of sales, more Kansans might take advantage of recreational opportunities available at Kansas State Parks and water systems. Sadly, in Wichita one long time marine dealership is closing its doors and others only sell used boats and do service work.

For these reasons, the Kansas BASS Nation's membership supports HB 2244.

Thank you,

Kent Craft
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