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To: House Taxation Committee
Date: February 12, 2018
Subject: Support for HB 2584

Honorable Chairman Johnson and members of the House Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the Kansas Association of REALTORS® (KAR), thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support to HB 2584.

KAR represents over 9,500 members involved in both residential and commercial real estate and has advocated on behalf of the state's property owners for over 95 years. REALTORS® serve an important role in the state's economy and are dedicated to working with our elected officials to create better communities by supporting economic development, a high quality of life and providing affordable housing opportunities while protecting the rights of private property owners.

HB 2584 would prohibit county treasurers from distributing any property taxes paid by a property taxpayer under protest until an appeal of the property valuation has been completed. The county treasurer would be required to hold those funds aside pending the outcome of the property valuation appeal.

This would provide the county with a very strong incentive to work with the property owner to find a mutually agreeable solution earlier in the property tax appeals process rather than dragging out the matter in an protracted valuation appeals process. Under the current system, it is fundamentally unfair to allow a county to require a property taxpayer to pay under protest while the same county drags out the property tax appeals process, which causes a severe hardship on a taxpayer that is forced to contest an unreasonable property tax valuation.

In addition, the committee should consider providing this protection to all classes of property, instead of limiting it to only residential property.

To close, thank you for the opportunity to provide the committee with written comments regarding the proposal set out in HB2584. KAR would respectfully request that the House Taxation Committee support the provisions contained in HB 2584. I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Respectfully submitted,

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