

## County Farm Bureau Association Testimony

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- Scott
- Seward
- Shawnee
- Smith
- Stafford
- Trego
- Wabaunsee
- Woodson



BARBER COUNTY FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION  
The Voice of Agriculture

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Email: [Barberfb@kfb.org](mailto:Barberfb@kfb.org)

Phone: (620)886-3316  
Fax: (620)886-3287

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Dennis Ricke, Barber County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Barber County Farm Bureau. Barber County Farm Bureau has roughly 647 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay \$31,445,932 in property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Commodity prices are falling and drought conditions continue, not only in Barber County, but other counties as well. This leads to a questionable crop year. Increasing property taxes would present an unsurmountable financial obstacle to many farming operations.

The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary school. We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.

We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Thank-you for your time,

Dennis Ricke

President

Barber County Farm Bureau Association

**BARTON COUNTY FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION**

**4210 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**GREAT BEND, KS 67530**

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Tim Maier, Barton Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Barton Farm Bureau.

Those in agriculture (farming and ranching) are paying over 14% tax in land which was valued at \$34,261,656.00 in 2016 and has since increased.

Because we have a community college in Barton County, our taxation is even higher than many counties. We already pay a huge tax amount to local school districts and county government.

We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Respectfully

Tim Maier  
Barton County Farm Bureau



## ***Crawford County Farm Bureau Association***

112 W. St. John, Girard, KS 66743 / (620) 724-4213

Fax: (620) 724-6897 / Email: [crawfordfb@kfb.org](mailto:crawfordfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Brandon Poland, Crawford County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools. I am writing on behalf of Crawford County Farm Bureau. Crawford County Farm Bureau has roughly 370 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county.

Crawford County Farm Bureau cannot support an increase in property taxes to fund schools. Agricultural users are paying their fair share of taxes, and as a percentage of our county's population we are paying much more than the average family. This is a time of low commodity prices that has many ag producers struggling to survive, and an increase in property taxes would be devastating. They do not need an added property tax burden.

Crawford County Farm Bureau respectfully asks that you oppose HB 2740 and seek to find a more equitable alternative to fund education. Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon Poland". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Brandon Poland



DECATUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU<sup>®</sup>  
The Voice of Agriculture<sup>™</sup>

P.O. Box 22

Oberlin, KS 67749-0022

785.470.7042

decaturfb@kfb.org

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**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Decatur County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Decatur County Farm Bureau.

As Land owners and private property owners we are already paying a significant amount towards school aid and want to let you know we are vehemently opposed to this property tax increase. HB 2740 calls for almost doubling the required ad valorem property tax levy. This comes at a time when we in agriculture are losing money on our operations and are trying to find ways to survive.

Our Northwest counties are declining in population. Our elderly residents are passing away, while others are moving out of our area due to high taxes, rising costs of living and stagnate wages. This leaves less people to pay the taxes needed to maintain our county and city services.

Most of our agricultural land valuation has gone up 25% each year for the last 5 years. Farmers and ranchers cannot stand any more increases and continue to be in business. The economy of Decatur County is mostly agricultural. If farmers and ranchers fail so will our local economy.

We believe that everyone should share in paying taxes and believe in a three-footed stool principle – taxes coming from income, sales and property taxes. Putting more required tax on property is an unfair burden and makes our chances of surviving in our businesses very unlikely.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical issue.

Respectfully,

Decatur County Farm Bureau Board Members,

Natasha Carman

Jim Barrett

Jason Ketterl

Kyle Carman

Ralph Unger

Amanda Sowers



**Harper County Farm Bureau Association**  
**602 N. L L & G P O BOX 425, ANTHONY KS 67003**  
**Phone: 620-842-3295 Fax: 620-842-3195**

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Ben Cather, President, Harper County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Harper Farm Bureau. Harper Farm Bureau has roughly 426 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay 33% in property taxes to our local school districts and county government, which already burdens them in these hard economic times.

Those in agriculture are facing extremely low crop prices countered by extremely high production costs as well as unfavorable growing conditions. I, along with the other members of our board, are speaking on behalf of our county's agricultural producers - any increase in the state property tax levy would be very detrimental to our livelihood as farmers and property owners.

We feel the legislature should instead develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary school and reduce of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.

We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Ben Cather, President, Harper County Farm Bureau

Katie Carothers, Vice President

Debbie Francis, Sec/Treas

Kevin Waldschmidt, Stephanie Waldschmidt, Caitlin Henderson, Jacob Henderson

# HASKELL CO. FARM BUREAU

**Sublette, KS**

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Nathan Kells, Haskell County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools. Haskell Co Farm Bureau has roughly 218 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay about 32% of our property taxes to our local school districts.

Our rural, county Ag property value's make up 22% of our county's valuation, second only to oil and gas valuations which account for 40%. As you can see 62% of our county valuation is tied directly to the land.

We, as representatives of Haskell Co Farm Bureau, oppose any increased property tax and urge the legislature to develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools.

Due to local circumstances mainly dealing with the loss of oil and gas valuations as our supply runs out, our county has had to dramatically increase our assessments the last couple of years, to a tune of almost doubling the tax we pay. Any additional state increase would further the extreme pain.

We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Nathan Kells

Haskell Co Farm Bureau President



**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Kingman County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Kingman County Farm Bureau. Kingman County Farm Bureau has roughly 375 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay their share in property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Kansas Farm Bureau has clear grassroots driven policy that opposes increasing the property tax levy for schools:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for taking the time to hear our voice of concern. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Prepared and submitted by:  
Kingman County Farm Bureau Executive Board Members:

/s/ Lawrence Meng  
Lawrence Meng – President

/s/ Toni Smarsh  
Toni Smarsh – Vice President

/s/ Heath Weninger  
Heath Weninger – Secretary/Treasurer



# ***Labette County Farm Bureau Association, Inc.***

**401 South Washington, PO Box 278, Altamont, Kansas 67330**

**E-mail: [labettefb@kfb.org](mailto:labettefb@kfb.org)**

**Phone 620-784-5335**

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Justin Strickland, Labette County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools. I am writing on behalf of Labette County Farm Bureau. Our county organization has roughly 450 members throughout our county who are active in farming and ranching.

Labette County Farm Bureau does not favor an increase in property taxes to fund schools. An income or sales tax would be a fairer option as people would pay more based upon their income capability. This is a time of low commodity prices that has many ag producers struggling to survive. They do not need an added property tax burden.

A Labette County Farm Bureau member recently shared that his property taxes have increased 40% over a four year period. In checking we have learned that ag land values may continue to increase for another year or two. Even if the mill levy stays the same, higher valuation results in an increase in taxes during this time of low market prices.

Just a little over two years ago, a rural school district serving a large part of our county proposed a bond issue for building improvements. It was defeated as property owners did not want property taxes increased.

According to the 2017 Real and Personal Property Value and Tax Summary for Labette County, 26.44% of our tax dollars goes to local school districts, 18.9% to the community college, and 32.98% for county government. This shows a large amount of property tax dollars are already funding education and local government.

Kansas Farm Bureau policy states, "The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools." And, "We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Labette County Farm Bureau respectfully asks that you oppose HB 2740 and seek to find a more equitable alternative to fund education. Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony.



Justin Strickland, President  
Labette County Farm Bureau

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Kim Baldwin, President/McPherson County Farm Bureau Association

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of McPherson County Farm Bureau Association. McPherson County has roughly 460 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay 42% of property taxes to our local school districts and county government, which already burdens them in these hard economic times.

Those in our agricultural community are facing extremely low crop prices and extremely high production costs, all in unfavorable growing conditions. I, along with the other members of our board, are speaking on behalf for our county's agricultural community - any increase in the state property tax levy would be very detrimental to our livelihood as farmers and property owners. We feel the legislature should instead develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary school and reduce of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.

/S/ Kim Baldwin, President, McPherson County Farm Bureau

Troy Wedel, Vice President

Ricky Schroder, Sec/Treas

Board Members - Jeff Smith, Steve Penner, Matt Toll, Gary Frownfelter, Arlyss Schroeder,  
Cody Bornholdt, Jenny Goering, and Sam Stucky

**MIAMI COUNTY FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION  
725 S. SILVER P.O. BOX 424  
PAOLA, KS 66071  
913-294-5708**

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** David and Barbara Wilson, Miami County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Miami County Farm Bureau.

My name is David Wilson and I reside on our Century Farm in Miami County Kansas and I am a member of the Miami County Farm Bureau. My wife Barbara and I are retired and depend on Social Security, our retirement investments and income from our land.

Our School District has taken over the recreation and entertainment facilities, from the City of Osawatomie, that is located on the school campus. It has increased our property taxes to where our land rarely nets enough income to cover the taxes alone. We are being forced to use our retirement investments to keep our land. I am the 3rd generation and I farm with my son who is the 4th generation on this land. We intend to pass this farm on to our grandchildren who will be the 5th generation. This tax increase could eliminate our ability to keep our land let alone pass it on to future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter. We ask you to oppose HB 2740

Sincerely  
David Wilson  
33585 W 335th St  
Osawatomie, KS 66064  
913-755-3911

Montgomery County Farm Bureau



**Montgomery County Farm Bureau Association**

217 W. Myrtle • Independence • Kansas • 67301

(620) 331-0826 • [montgomeryfb@kfb.org](mailto:montgomeryfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Montgomery Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Montgomery Farm Bureau.

On behalf of the Montgomery County Board of Directors, we as you to oppose HB2740. Kansas Farm Bureau's grassroots developed policy is: "The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary school." And, " We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Sincerely,

*Darrell DeTar*

Darrell DeTar

Montgomery County Farm Bureau President

[ddetar1@hotmail.com](mailto:ddetar1@hotmail.com)

620-252-8260

*Scott Gordon*

Scott Gordon

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Vice President

[scottgordon77@gmail.com](mailto:scottgordon77@gmail.com)

620-515-6865

*Chuck Voelker*

Chuck Voelker

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Treasurer

[cjvoelker@hotmail.com](mailto:cjvoelker@hotmail.com)

620-330-1687

*Lisa Kuehn*

Lisa Kuehn

Montgomery County Farm Bureau Director

[lisadkuehn@gmail.com](mailto:lisadkuehn@gmail.com)

620-515-1368



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**Rice County Farm Bureau Association 110 East Avenue South Lyons KS 67554**  
**620-257-2945 ricefb@kfb.org**

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Susan Griffin, Rice County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Rice County Farm Bureau. Rice County Farm Bureau has roughly 882 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay \$40,906,259 in property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Signed:

Susan Griffin, Steve Nielsen, Jennifer Short, Leanne Hook, Mike Schafer, Kendall Hodgson and Brian Sieker

Sherman County Farm Bureau  
1610 Main  
Goodland, KS 67735

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Amy Sederstrom, Sherman County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740. On behalf of Sherman County Farm Bureau, we ask you to oppose HB 2740 which seeks to increase the required ad valorem property tax levy.

As land owners and private property owners, we are already paying a significant amount towards school aid and want to let you know we are vehemently opposed to this property tax increase. HB 2740 calls for almost doubling the required ad valorem property tax levy within a three year time frame. This comes at a time in agriculture when we are losing money in our operations and are trying to find ways to survive.

Having been members of the Kansas Farm Management Association for many years, I always enjoy the year end analysis that they provide to their membership. The 2016 average Net Farm Income for my area – the Northwest Kansas Association was only \$389. In 2015, we lost on average in my NW Kansas area \$<2,971>. I recently visited with my economist, Mark Wood, and he stated that 2017 is not looking very good either. Three years in a row of a depressed farm economy. Yet HB 2740 is proposing a tax increase to ag land owners.

I recently looked at Sherman County's 2016 Real and Personal Property Value and Tax Summary. Not surprising at all, but Ag Land contributes 33.8% of the total revenue generated and by far the largest sector. Residential homeowners came in second place with 25.55% of revenue.

In closing, we believe everyone should share in paying taxes and believe in the three-footed stool principle. Taxes should come from income, sales and property taxes. Putting more required tax on property is an unfair burden and it would make our chances of surviving in our agriculture business very unlikely.

We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Respectfully,

*Amy Sederstrom*

Amy Sederstrom, President  
Sherman County Farm Bureau



Wichita County Farm Bureau  
620-375-5242  
PO Box 580  
Leoti, Ks 67861

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** J.D. Perry, Wichita County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Wichita County Farm Bureau. Wichita County Farm Bureau has roughly 232 members out of a population of 1,700 who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay 48.8% in property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

With statistics showing a continued decline in the agricultural income, to increase the property tax on a community that is made up of mostly farmers and ranchers, this would be extremely detrimental to our rural community along with many others.

We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Wichita County Farm Bureau Board

*JD Perry*

JD Perry, President  
Clint France, Vice President  
Russel Lewis  
Randy Biermann  
Denton Tankersley  
Amy Varner  
Amy France  
Chasity Fritzmeier County Coordinator



**Allen County Farm Bureau  
Association**

807 N. State St.  
Iola, KS 66749  
620-365-2172  
FAX 620-380-6372  
allenfb@kfb.org

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman  
**From:** Darin Tidd, Allen County Farm Bureau Association  
**Date:** March 6, 2018  
**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Allen County Farm Bureau. Allen County Farm Bureau has roughly 750 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Agricultural users are paying their fair share of taxes, and as a percentage of our county's population we are paying much more than the average family. With the current agriculture economy, an increase in property taxes would be devastating.

Allen County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion.

Sincerely,

The Board of Allen County Farm Bureau  
Darin Tidd, President



**Atchison County Farm Bureau Association**

P.O. Box 184  
Effingham, KS 66023  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Charles Schletzbaum, Atchison County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Atchison County Farm Bureau. Atchison County Farm Bureau has roughly **1185** members, with most of them active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Additional statewide property taxes, in a time of low agriculture commodity prices, will create negative effects on the farmers and ranchers of our county. Our production agriculture members are already being hit hard at the bottom line and while we are supporters of our public schools, additional taxes would place additional burdens on an already downtrodden economic position for property owners.

Atchison County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Atchison County Farm Bureau

Charles Schletzbaum, President

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Greg Mowdy, Cherokee County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Cherokee County Farm Bureau. Cherokee County Farm Bureau has over 300 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county.

Agriculture works if farm and ranch families can successfully run their operations. This involves minimizing expenses. Borrowing money to pay those expenses: inputs, land payments, interest, labor and other operating costs including property taxes are a part of those expenses and the idea of the state increasing the mill levy from 20 to 38 over three years is discouraging. With the farm economy not doing well, we have enough challenges to overcome and don't need more brought on by the state increasing property taxes.

House Bill 2470 will not help family farms. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Cherokee County Farm Bureau  
Greg Mowdy, President



Clark County Farm Bureau  
The Voice of Agriculture ®  
PO Box 277, Ashland, KS 67831  
clarkfb@kfb.org

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Bruce McKissick, Clark County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Clark County Farm Bureau. Clark County Farm Bureau has roughly 250 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percent in property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Agriculture works if farm and ranch families can successfully run their operations. This involves minimizing expenses. Borrowing money to pay those expenses: inputs, land payments, interest, labor and other operating costs including property taxes are a part of those expenses and the idea of the state increasing the mill levy from 20 to 38 over three years is discouraging. With the farm economy not doing well, we have enough challenges to overcome and don't need more brought on by the state increasing property taxes. House Bill 2470 will not help family farms and we are opposed to it.

Clark County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Clark County Farm Bureau

Bruce McKissick, President



CLOUD COUNTY FARM BUREAU™  
The Voice of Agriculture™

Cloud County Farm Bureau  
101 East 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Concordia, KS 66901  
[cloudfb@kfb.org](mailto:cloudfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** David Forshee, President, Cloud County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Cloud Farm Bureau. Cloud County Farm Bureau has roughly **952** members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Cloud County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Cloud County Farm Bureau

David Forshee, President  
Holly Lenz, Vice President  
Tiffany Richard, Secretary  
Katy Keil, Treasurer

Sydney Conner  
Dustin Newlin  
Jeff Nelson  
Cathy Forshee  
Mikel Henning

**Coffey County Farm Bureau Association**

P.O. Box 270—516 Nsosho Street. Burlington, KS



**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Ashton Birk, Coffey County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Coffey Farm Bureau. Coffey Farm Bureau has roughly 350 members and their families who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county.

Agriculture works if farm and ranch families can successfully run their operations. This involves minimizing expenses. Borrowing money to pay those expenses: inputs, land payments, interest, labor and other operating costs including property taxes are a part of those expenses and the idea of the state increasing the mill levy from 20 to 38 over three years is discouraging. With the farm economy not doing well, we have enough challenges to overcome and don't need more brought on by the state increasing property taxes.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

House Bill 2740 will not help family farms. We ask that you oppose HB 2740.

Coffey County Farm Bureau Board President,

Ashton Birk

**Comanche County Farm Bureau Association**

P.O. Box 607 • 101 W. Main

Coldwater, KS 67029

Phone 620-582-2194 • Fax 620-582-2615

[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson. Chairman

**From:** Mike Deewall, Comanche Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Comanche County Farm Bureau. Comanche County Farm Bureau has roughly 175 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, additional taxes are burdensome on the farmers and ranchers of our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. The health of our members and rural communities relies on the economic health of our ag community.

Comanche County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Comanche County Farm Bureau

Mike Deewall, President



**DICKINSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU ASSN.**

2486 1600 Ave. Woodbine, KS 67492

**PH: (785) 479-7032**

**Email: dickinsonfb@kfb.org**

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**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Kris Bogart, Dickinson County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, on behalf of Dickinson County Farm Bureau, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools. Dickinson County Farm Bureau has roughly 800 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Additional statewide property taxes, in a time of low agriculture commodity prices, will create negative effects on the farmers and ranchers of our county. Our production agriculture members are already being hit hard at the bottom line and while we are supporters of our public schools, additional taxes would place additional burdens on an already downtrodden economic position for property owners.

Dickinson County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools[...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Dickinson County Farm Bureau

Kris Bogart, President  
Dan Forsyth, Vice President  
Kristen Felbush Secretary/Treasurer  
Travis Kuntz, Board Member  
Sam Shrack, Board Member  
Kerry Whitehair, Board Member

Doniphan County Farm Bureau  
PO Box 242  
Troy, KS 66087

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Pam Meng, Doniphan County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Doniphan County Farm Bureau. Doniphan County Farm Bureau has roughly 579 members, many of whom are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Doniphan County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools[...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion.  
We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

*Pam Meng, President*

Doniphan County Farm Bureau Association  
1<sup>st</sup> District Women's Leadership Chair  
816.261.7216 (cell)  
785.985.2352 (home)





# Edwards COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The Voice of Agriculture ®

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PO Box 214, Kinsley, KS 67547 [Edwardsfb@kfb.org](mailto:Edwardsfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Bonnie Russell, President, Edwards County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Edwards County Farm Bureau. Edwards County Farm Bureau has roughly 400 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Edwards County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

*“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Edwards County Farm Bureau

Bonnie Russell, President

Ellis County Farm Bureau  
2809 Hall St  
Hays, KS 67601

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Matt Grabbe, Ellis County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Ellis County Farm Bureau. Ellis County Farm Bureau has roughly **2400** members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Ellis County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's Policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools[...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Ellis County Farm Bureau  
Matt Grabbe, President

**Ellsworth County Farm Bureau Association**

P.O. Box 309  
Ellsworth, KS 67439  
Phone 785-531-2966  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Brent Goss, Ellsworth County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Ellsworth County Farm Bureau. Ellsworth County Farm Bureau has roughly 370 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Ellsworth County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

*“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Ellsworth County Farm Bureau

Brent Goss, President



Ford COUNTY FARM BUREAU  
The Voice of Agriculture ®

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PO Box 1117, Dodge City, KS 67801 [fordfb@kfb.org](mailto:fordfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Alan Eaton, President, Ford County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Ford County Farm Bureau. Ford County Farm Bureau has roughly 1100 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Ford County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Ford County Farm Bureau

Alan Eaton, President



**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Aaron Dunbar, Franklin County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Franklin County Farm Bureau. Franklin County Farm Bureau has roughly 500 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a significant percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with depressed commodity prices. The health of our members and rural communities relies on the economic health of our ag community. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

Franklin County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Franklin County Farm Bureau  
Aaron Dunbar, President



Gray County Farm Bureau  
The Voice of Agriculture ®

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110 S. Main, Cimarron, KS 67835 [grayfb@kfb.org](mailto:grayfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Mark Busch, President, Gray County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Gray County Farm Bureau. Gray County Farm Bureau has roughly 450 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Gray County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Gray County Farm Bureau

Mark Busch, President

**Greeley County Farm Bureau Association**

P.O. Box 423  
Tribune, KS 67879  
Phone 620-376-2008  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Cody Woelk, Greeley County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 - Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Greeley County Farm Bureau. Greeley County Farm Bureau has roughly 80 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay 45.56% in property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance. The health of our members and rural communities relies on the economic health of our ag community.

Greeley County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Greeley County Farm Bureau

Cody Woelk, President



**Hamilton County Farm Bureau Association**

P.O. Box 983  
Syracuse, KS 67878  
Phone 620-384-6935  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Darrin DeWitt, President, Hamilton County Farm Bureau Association, Syracuse KS.

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Hamilton County Farm Bureau Association. Hamilton County Farm Bureau has roughly 200 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Additional statewide property taxes, in a time of low agriculture commodity prices, will create negative effects on the farmers and ranchers of our county. Our production agriculture members are already being hit hard at the bottom line and while we are supporters of our public schools, additional taxes would place additional burdens on an already downtrodden economic position for property owners.

Hamilton County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Hamilton County Farm Bureau Board of Directors,

Darrin DeWitt, President



**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Jordan Foster, Jackson County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Jackson County Farm Bureau. Jackson County Farm Bureau has roughly **1200** members, with most of them active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Additional statewide property taxes, in a time of low agriculture commodity process, has the potential to create negative effects on the farmers and ranchers of our county. Our production ag members are already being hit hard at the bottom line and while we are supporters of our public schools and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for; additional property taxes would place a disproportionate burden on an already downtrodden economic position for land owners. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

Jackson County Farm Bureau stands behind our grassroots organizations policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools...We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our position on HB 2740 to your committee. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

*Jordan Foster*

Jordan Foster, President  
Jackson County Farm Bureau



Jefferson County Farm Bureau  
The Voice of Agriculture ®

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PO Box 609, Oskaloosa, KS 66066 [jeffersonfb@kfb.org](mailto:jeffersonfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Donna Bates, President, Jefferson County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Jefferson County Farm Bureau. Jefferson County Farm Bureau has roughly 1020 members, many of whom are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Additional statewide property taxes, in a time of low agriculture commodity prices, will create negative effects on the farmers and ranchers of our county. Our production agriculture members are already being hit hard at the bottom line and while we are supporters of our public schools, additional taxes would place additional burdens on an already downtrodden economic position for property owners.

Jefferson County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Jefferson County Farm Bureau

Donna Bates, President

**Jewell County Farm Bureau Association**

113 E. Main  
Mankato, KS 66956  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Jason Nelson, Jewell County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Jewell County Farm Bureau. Jewell County Farm Bureau has roughly **372** members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

Jewell County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Jewell County Farm Bureau

Jason Nelson, President

Kearny County Farm Bureau Association  
P.O Box 49  
Lakin, Kansas 67860



**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Jennifer Christie, Kearny County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Kearny County Farm Bureau. Kearny County Farm Bureau has roughly 140 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay 26.98% in property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture is already struggling with low commodity prices. The health of our members and rural communities relies on the economic health of our ag community. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

Kearny County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Kearny County Farm Bureau

Jennifer Christie, President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Christie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Kiowa County Farm Bureau Association**

320 W. Kansas Ave  
Greensburg, KS 67054  
Phone 620-723-2581  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Steve Goering, Kiowa County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

---

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Kiowa County Farm Bureau. Kiowa County Farm Bureau has roughly **410** members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

Kiowa County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools[...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Kiowa County Farm Bureau

Steve Goering, Vice President



Lincoln County Farm Bureau Association  
146 E. Lincoln Ave  
Lincoln, KS 67455  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Jason Coover, Lincoln County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

---

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Lincoln County Farm Bureau. Lincoln County Farm Bureau has roughly 380 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

Lincoln County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Lincoln County Farm Bureau

Jason Coover, President

**Lyon County Farm Bureau Association**  
**PO Box 2024 – Emporia, KS 66801**  
**Phone: (620) 342-4715 – Email: lyonfb@kfb.org**

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Kevin DeDonder, Lyon County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

---

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Lyon County Farm Bureau. Lyon County Farm Bureau has roughly 673 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a significant percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Lyon County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Lyon County Farm Bureau

Kevin DeDonder, President

**Marshall County Farm Bureau Association**

1019 Broadway  
Marysville, KS 66508  
Phone 620-562-2136  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Travis Mason, Marshall County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

---

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Marshall County Farm Bureau. Marshall County Farm Bureau has roughly 1120 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Additional statewide property taxes, in a time of low agriculture commodity prices, will create negative effects on the farmers and ranchers of our county. Our production agriculture members are already being hit hard at the bottom line and while we are supporters of our public schools, additional taxes would place additional burdens on an already downtrodden economic position for property owners.

Marshall County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Marshall County Farm Bureau

Travis Mason, President



**Mitchell County Farm Bureau**

P.O. Box 423  
Beloit, KS 67420

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Dallas Fuller, Mitchell County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

---

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Mitchell County Farm Bureau. Mitchell County Farm Bureau has roughly 600 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, additional taxes are burdensome on the farmers and ranchers of our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. The health of our members and rural communities relies on the economic health of our ag community.

Mitchell County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Mitchell County Farm Bureau

Dallas Fuller, President

**Nemaha County Farm Bureau Association**

33 S 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Seneca, KS 66538  
Phone 785-336-2341  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson. Chairman

**From:** Dan Korber, Nemaha County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

---

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Nemaha County Farm Bureau. Nemaha County Farm Bureau has roughly **796** members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage in property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

Nemaha County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Nemaha County Farm Bureau

Dan Korber, President



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509 Market Street, Osage City, KS 66523 - [OsageFB@kfb.org](mailto:OsageFB@kfb.org) - 785-640-2342

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Osage County Farm Bureau Association

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Osage County Farm Bureau. Osage County Farm Bureau has roughly 1,200 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay over \$6,000,000 in property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

We are a county of approximately 17,000 which is comprised of mostly agricultural and rural families.

Agriculture works if farm and ranch families can successfully run their operations. This involves minimizing expenses. Borrowing money to pay those expenses: inputs, land payments, interest, labor and other operating costs including property taxes are a part of those expenses and the idea of the state increasing the mill levy from 20 to 38 over three years is discouraging. With a depressed farm economy, we have enough challenges to overcome and don't need more brought on by the state increasing property taxes.

If you choose to increase property taxes you will be adding another link in the chain that is choking agricultural along with the devastating grain prices. We ask you to please reconsider increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools at the expense of agriculture and Kansas folks as well. We understand that you have been ordered by the courts to increase funding to schools, but this is not a solution for the majority of Kansas.

County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

House Bill 2470 will not help family farms. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Sincerely,

David Prescott, President

Osage County Farm Bureau Association

**Osborne County Farm Bureau Association**

P.O. Box 266  
Osborne, KS 67473  
[www.kfb.org](http://www.kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Kathleen Schultze, Osborne County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Osborne County Farm Bureau. Osborne County Farm Bureau has roughly 600 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

Osborne County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Osborne County Farm Bureau

Kathleen Schultze, President

# Ottawa County Farm Bureau

505 Limestone Rd., Minneapolis, KS 67467 (785) 392-7501



**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Jay Wisbey, Ottawa County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Ottawa County Farm Bureau. Ottawa County Farm Bureau has roughly 280 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a sizable percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocery, car dealer, furniture store, and main street business. The far-reaching consequences for our rural towns and communities.

Ottawa County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Ottawa County Farm Bureau

Jay Wisbey, President

Cameron Walker, Vice-President

Tom Tibbits, Treasurer

Sandy Tibbits, Board of Directors

Matt Pickrell, Board of Directors

Angel Haney, Board of Directors

Cole Malmberg, Board of Directors

Colby Berry, Board of Directors

Lloyd Mull, Board of Directors

Vance Stirn, Board of Directors



Pawnee County Farm Bureau  
The Voice of Agriculture ®

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PO Box 479, Larned, KS 67550 [Pawneefb@kfb.org](mailto:Pawneefb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Randy Rainbolt, President, Pawnee County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Pawnee County Farm Bureau. Pawnee County Farm Bureau has roughly 400 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Pawnee County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Pawnee County Farm Bureau

Randy Rainbolt, President



**Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau**  
**The Voice of Agriculture ®**

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PO Box 50, Wamego, KS 66547 [pottawatomiefb@kfb.org](mailto:pottawatomiefb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** John White, Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau. Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau has roughly **1200** members, many of whom are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Pottawatomie County Farm Bureau

John White, President

Pratt County Farm Bureau  
310 E 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Pratt, KS 67124

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Jackie Mundt, President/Pratt County Farm Bureau Association

**Date:** February 28, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Pratt County Farm Bureau Association. Pratt County has roughly 358 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay 30% in property taxes to our local school districts and county government, which already burdens them in these hard economic times.

Those in agricultural are not only facing extremely low crop prices but extremely high production costs as well in unfavorable growing conditions. I, along with the other members of our board, are speaking on behalf for our county's farm community - any increase in the state property tax levy would be very detrimental to our livelihood as farmers and property owners. We feel the legislature should instead develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary school and reduce of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.

We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

/S/ Jackie Mundt, President, Pratt County Farm Bureau  
Dalton Hodgkinson, Vice President  
Brandon Bortz, Sec/Treas  
Richard Baker, Nick Panek, Adam Hampel, Cherie Riffey, Dave Snider, Weston Goyen, Trey Langford,  
Board Members





Reno County Farm Bureau  
Association  
10 S Main Suite A  
South Hutchinson, KS 67505  
(620) 663-4251

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**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Cameron Peirce, President Reno County Farm Bureau

**Date:** 2/28/2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Reno County Farm Bureau. Reno County Farm Bureau has roughly 473 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocery, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Reno County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Reno County Farm Bureau  
Cameron Peirce, President



Riley County Farm Bureau Association  
2630 Farm Bureau Rd, Manhattan, KS 66502  
Phone Number - (785)-565-0400  
Email – [rileyfb@kfb.org](mailto:rileyfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Ron Wilson, Riley County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Riley County Farm Bureau. Riley County Farm Bureau has roughly 300 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Additional statewide property taxes, in a time of low agriculture commodity prices, will create negative effects on the farmers and ranchers of our county. Our production agriculture members are already being hit hard at the bottom line and while we are supporters of our public schools, additional taxes would place additional burdens on an already downtrodden economic position for property owners.

Riley County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Riley County Farm Bureau

Ron Wilson, President  
Donnell Scott, Vice President  
Mary Mertz, Treasurer  
Melissa Wahl, County Coordinator

Melissa Cook  
Beth Dugan  
Galen Hofmann  
Megan Larson

Valerie Visser  
Terry Henry



**Rush COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
The Voice of Agriculture ®

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PO Box 5, LaCrosse, KS 67548 [Rushfb@kfb.org](mailto:Rushfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Maureen Georg, President, Rush County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Rush County Farm Bureau. Rush County Farm Bureau has roughly 300 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocery, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Rush County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Rush County Farm Bureau  
Maureen Georg, President

**Russell County Farm Bureau**  
**315 E. Wichita Ave**  
**Russell, KS 67665**

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Gerald Machin, Russell County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Russell County Farm Bureau. Russell County Farm Bureau has roughly **591** members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Russell County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Russell County Farm Bureau

Gerald Machin, President

## **Saline County Farm Bureau Association**

328 N. Ohio, Salina, Kansas 67401

E-Mail: [salinefb@kfb.org](mailto:salinefb@kfb.org)

Phone: 785-822-2764

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Saline County Farm Bureau President, Leslie Berndt

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Saline Farm Bureau. Saline Farm Bureau has roughly 448 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocery, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Saline County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Saline County Farm Bureau

Leslie Berndt, President

Pete Meagher, Vice President

Larry Breer

Dennis Swenson

John Short

Connie Cox-Dorf

James Komarek

Justin Knopf

Jason Kern

Jim Hanson



**SCOTT COUNTY FARM BUREAU**  
**The Voice of Agriculture ®**

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PO Box 245, Scott City, KS 67871 [scottfb@kfb.org](mailto:scottfb@kfb.org)

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Randy Schuerman, President, Scott County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Scott County Farm Bureau. Scott County Farm Bureau has roughly 450 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

Scott County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools... We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Scott County Farm Bureau  
Randy Schuerman, President



## SEWARD COUNTY FARM BUREAU ASSOCIATION

1010 N. Kansas, Liberal, KS / 620-624-1681

To: House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

From: Carolyn Quillin, Seward County Farm Bureau

Date: March 6, 2018

Re: HB 2740 — Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Seward County Farm Bureau. Seward County Farm Bureau has roughly 196 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our focal public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Seward County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools[...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Seward County Farm Bureau

Carolyn Quillin President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Quillin", is written below the typed name.

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Steve Porubsky, Shawnee County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Shawnee County Farm Bureau. Shawnee County Farm Bureau has roughly 4200 members, many of whom are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

Additional statewide property taxes, in a time of low agriculture commodity process, has the potential to create negative effects on the farmers and ranchers of our county. Our production ag members are already being hit hard at the bottom line and while we are supporters of our public schools and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for; additional property taxes would place unnecessary burdens on an already downtrodden economic position for property owners.

Shawnee County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools...We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our position on HB 2740 to your committee. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

Steve Porubsky, President  
Shawnee County Farm Bureau



**Smith County Farm Bureau**

P.O. Box 327

Smith Center, KS 66967

(785)-282-0161

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Adam Ifland, Smith County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Smith Farm Bureau. Smith Farm Bureau has roughly **411** members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Additionally, property tax creates a disparity burden on property defendant business that occurs regardless of business profitability.

Smith County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau policy:

“The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools [...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Smith County Farm Bureau

Adam Ifland, President

Stafford County Farm Bureau  
PO Box 308  
Saint John 67576

To: House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

From: Justin Vosburgh, Stafford County Farm Bureau President

Date: March 6, 2018

Re: HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Stafford County Farm Bureau. Stafford County Farm Bureau has roughly 358 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay 32.5% in property taxes just to our local school districts which already burdens them in these hard economic times.

Those in our agricultural community are not only facing extremely low crop prices but extremely high production costs as well. Growing conditions seem to be remaining unfavorable. I, along with the other members of our board, are speaking on behalf of our county's ag community - any increase in the state property tax levy would be very detrimental to our livelihood as farmers and property owners. We feel the legislature should instead develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools and reduce the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law.

We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

/S/ Justin Vosburgh, President, Stafford County Farm Bureau

Shon Meschberger, Vice-President

Marlyn Spare, Sec/Treas.

Keith McNickle, Brian Dunn, Tyler Alpers, Cammie Vaupel, Board Members

Trego County Farm Bureau  
2809 Hall St  
Hays, KS 67601

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Gerald Riedel, Trego County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

---

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Trego County Farm Bureau. Trego County Farm Bureau has roughly **264** members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocer, car dealer, furniture store, and main street businesses. The far reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Trego County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools[...] We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Trego County Farm Bureau  
Gerald Riedel, President

**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Wabaunsee County Farm Bureau, Diane Hoobler, President

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

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Dear Chairman Johnson and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Wabaunsee County Farm Bureau, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools. Wabaunsee County Farm Bureau has roughly 351 members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a significant percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for; additional taxation through a property tax increase are burdensome on the farmers and ranchers of our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with depressed commodity prices. The health of our members and rural communities relies on the economic health of our ag community.

Agriculture works if farm and ranch families can successfully run their operations. This involves minimizing expenses, such as inputs, land payments, interests, labor *and property taxes*. The idea of the state increasing the mill levy from 20 to 38 over three years would be detrimental. With the farm economy not doing well, we have enough challenges to overcome and cannot sustain our production with the added taxation challenge.

Wabaunsee County Farm Bureau stands behind Kansas Farm Bureau's policy:

"The legislature should develop school finance legislation that minimizes reliance on the property tax for support of public elementary and secondary schools...We favor reduction of the state property tax levy that is now part of the school finance law."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. It is our hope that our voices will be heard. To reiterate, House Bill 2470 will not help family farms. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Wabaunsee County Farm Bureau  
Diane Hoobler, President



# Woodson County Farm Bureau Association

109 N. State Street, Yates Center, KS 66783

620-625-2345 Woodsonfb@kfb.org



**To:** House Taxation Committee, Rep. Steven Johnson, Chairman

**From:** Quentin Stoll, Woodson County Farm Bureau

**Date:** March 6, 2018

**Re:** HB 2740 – Increasing the statewide property tax levy for schools

---

Chairman Johnson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of HB 2740, proposing to increase the statewide property tax levy for schools on behalf of Woodson County Farm Bureau. Woodson County Farm Bureau has roughly **183** members who are active in farming and ranching throughout the county and most of which already pay a large percentage of the property taxes to our local school districts and county government.

While our members are supporters of our local schools, and the public safety and transportation routes our county government is responsible for, additional property taxes are disproportionately burdensome on the agricultural lands our farmers and ranchers own in our county in a time when those in production agriculture are already struggling with low commodity prices. The health of our members and rural communities relies on the economic health of our ag community. We do not believe HB 2740 is the correct solution for school finance.

The health of rural communities is of utmost importance to our members and neighbors, and while we are ardent supporters of our local public schools, additional taxation through a property tax increase on those of us in production agriculture in a time of depressed commodity prices, leaves less money to spend at the local grocery, car dealer, furniture store, and main street business. The far-reaching consequences of a bill such as HB 2740 will result in a severe hardship for our rural towns and communities.

Additional statewide property taxes, in a time of low agriculture commodity prices, will create negative effects on the farmers and ranchers of our county. Our production agriculture members are already being hit hard at the bottom line and while we are supporters of our public schools, additional taxes would place an additional burden on an already downtrodden economic position for property owners.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide local insight into the discussion. We ask you to oppose HB 2740.

The Board of Woodson County Farm Bureau  
Quentin Stoll, President

