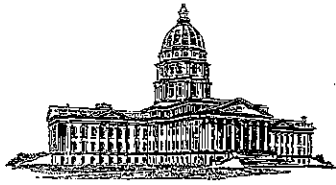


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March 14, 2020

Chairman Johnson, members of the Taxation Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of SB 294 Truth in Taxation Act. This bill passed the Senate 39-0. The bill is about Simplicity, Transparency, Accountability, and Responsibility.

Ask most taxpayers to explain how their property tax is figured they can not tell you. The formula is complex, the rates are different for different types of property and one must figure in the tax lid. SB 294 simplifies the formula to assessed valuation multiplied by the mill levy. Simple easy to understand and it eliminates the tax lid.

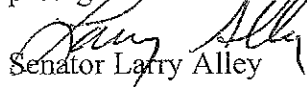
The bill also adds transparency to the equation. If the valuation increases the mill levy recalculates so the taxing authority receives the same amount as the previous year. If additional revenue is needed the taxing authority holds a public meeting to discuss the needed revenue and votes on the increase.

The taxing authority will now be accountable to the taxpayer, a rise in the valuation will not automatically result in an increase in revenue as has been the practice for many years. The taxing authority will now have to notify the taxpayer of a public meeting if they need to increase revenue, and they will have to vote for the increase.

Today there is not a person who is elected that is responsible for an increase in valuation. SB294 will place the taxing authority responsible for any tax increase by requiring them to publicly vote to increase the mill levy and property taxes in their district.

Simplicity, transparency, accountability, and responsibility, SB 294 includes measures to assure taxpayers understand their tax statements, understand who is raising their tax bill, and identifies who is responsible. All this while not reducing the amount of revenue the local taxing authority receives and provides a simple method to increase taxes if the need arises.

The tax lid is removed by SB 294 increasing local control and providing accountability for the taxpayer. Thank you for allowing this testimony on SB 294 and I urge you to consider favorable passage in committee.


Senator Larry Alley

Senate District32