

CITY OF SHAWNEE

CITY HALL

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Date: March 16, 2020
To: Chairman Johnson and House Taxation Committee Members
From: Caitlin Gard, Assistant City Manager
Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 294

Chairman Johnson and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 294 on behalf of the City of Shawnee.

The sunset of the tax lid does make the bill an opportunity to return decision making to elected representatives, and we are optimistic about the elimination of the tax lid since we have seen how unworkable a one-size-fits-all tax lid is when managing the diverse level of services our cities provide to residents. We are pleased the Senate has recognized the importance of eliminating the tax lid.

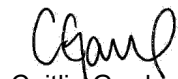
However, there are a number of items within the bill that the City opposes. The first being the inclusion of the calculation of the "revenue neutral rate." This will add in valuation from new growth (new construction, annexation, and expiring abatements) and then reduce the mill levy. We strongly believe that property taxpayers need to see a breakout between new growth and valuation increases in the truth-in-taxation statements.

Secondly, the truth-in-taxation statements need to include information on all taxing jurisdictions. It is imperative that that a taxpayer doesn't get a statement showing taxes will go up \$30 to \$750 for their city taxes, and then get their tax bill in November and find their tax bill is \$3,500 and went up \$150 because of school district and state increases.

We believe transparency is critical.

For these reasons, we please ask that you oppose Senate Bill 294 in its current form. I would be happy to speak more with you about this.

Sincerely,



Caitlin Gard
Assistant City Manager

