



Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties to the  
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation  
Proponent for HB 2033 • February 20, 2019

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2033 regarding sales tax authority for Dickinson, Finney, Jackson, Russell and Thomas Counties. Over the years, several counties have requested special sales tax authority for “dedicated” purposes. Purposes for imposing the dedicated taxes have varied – from constructing jails to financing the local match for system enhancements under the state’s comprehensive transportation programs to construction of a landfill to road and bridge improvements. Many of these “dedicated” countywide sales taxes have had sunset provisions, so that the tax is retired once the funds for a project are raised. The Legislature has routinely granted such requests for additional authority, subject to local voter approval.

The specific taxes are:

- Dickinson – roadway construction, 10 years, 0.5%.
- Finney – improvements on roads, fire station construction, construction of a gun range, and improvements to the zoo. 15 years, 0.3%
- Jackson – public infrastructure, 7 years, 0.4%
- Russell – economic development initiatives or public infrastructure projects, 10 years, 0.5%
- Thomas – construction or remodeling of county administrative facilities, would allow for an increase from 1.5% to 1.75%

In the case of Finney County, due to an administrative error, the ballot initiative was already presented to voters. Voters approved the additional tax. This bill would allow Finney County to correct that error.

Please report HB 2033 favorably for passage. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jay Hall

Kansas Association of Counties