



To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee  
From: Kansas Soybean Association and Kansas Association of Wheat Growers  
Subject: Proponent Testimony on S.B. 294, establishing notice and public hearing requirements prior to approval by a governing body to exceed its certified tax rate for property tax purposes  
Date: February 5, 2020

Chairman Tyson and members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present written proponent testimony today on S.B. 294 on behalf of the Kansas Soybean Association (KSA) and the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers (KAWG). Respectively, the organizations represent Kansas soybean and wheat farmer interests on legislative and regulatory issues.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture reports that oilseeds in Kansas, mainly soybeans, have a direct economic output of more than \$1.7 billion and provide more than 1,500 jobs. Including purchases of inputs and household spending, the oilseed industry supports over 9,300 jobs and creates a total economic contribution of \$2.9 billion in the state. The Kansas wheat industry has a direct output of over \$1.44 billion and creates 3,215 jobs in the state. Through indirect and induced impacts, the wheat industry supports a total of 10,487 jobs and creates a total economic contribution of approximately \$2.57 billion.

Kansas farmers face adversity in sustaining and increasing their economic contribution. Falling commodity prices and rising expenses result in incredibly thin margins. The biggest burden for farmers, however, is arguably property tax increases. For instance, a \$1,145 property tax bill in 2013 on 48 acres of unimproved crop land rose to \$2,045 over a five year period, nearly an 80 percent increase overall.

KSA & KAWG members support the property tax lid in Kansas statutes but oppose exceptions to the election requirement or any attempt to increase property taxes or weaken transparency.

S.B. 294 amends Kansas property tax law to require governing bodies to calculate a certified tax rate for the current year in a manner that would generate the same level of property tax revenue as the preceding year, based on the jurisdiction's total assessed property valuation.

KSA & KAWG members applaud the stated purpose of S.B. 294 to "promote truth in taxation." The provisions in S.B. 294 are common sense approaches to property taxes and local budgeting and represent sound public policy. KSA & KAWG stand in strong support of the bill and urge you to pass it favorably.

Respectfully submitted,

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