



To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

From: Robert Uhler, City of Fort Scott. Contact Info. Email: ruhler@fscity.org Phone: 620-223-0550

Date: February 5, 2020

RE: Legislative Testimony: Opponent on SB 294

I want to thank Madam Chairperson Tyson and the Committee members for allowing the City of Fort Scott the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 294, The City of Fort Scott is currently opposed to this legislation because it is fundamentally flawed bill.

Last December, the Tax Foundation recommended that Kansas repeal the tax lid and adopt the Utah model of Truth-in-Taxation. However, SB 294 is not the Utah model. The Utah model allows for new growth to be captured, and unlike the recommendation from the Tax Foundation, the bill doesn't repeal the tax lid.

SB 294 is flawed for the following reasons:

It is not the Utah model - it does not let taxing entities account for new growth.

It creates a complicated process where the Division of Administration is responsible for checking taxing entities' math on the certified mill levy.

Only one taxing entity can have a TNT hearing at one time. There are 89 different taxing jurisdictions in Sedgwick County alone.

There is no exemption for Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS, or Healthcare.

There is no exemption for CPI increases.

There is no exemption for new growth or expiring tax abatements.

Senate Bill 294 does not remove the current tax lid, and the TNT process does not work with a tax lid election.

One of the promises of this legislative body has said, with creation of Rural Revitalization Committee. Was to look at every piece of legislation from the rural perspective SB 294 punishes rural communities.

For these reasons, I ask that Committee not to pass SB 294 out of committee.

Thank you for your consideration.