



To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
From: Kevin Walker, Senior Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Date: 7 February 2020

Senator Tyson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the more than 800 business members of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 294.

Overland Park has the lowest mill levy of any first-class city in Kansas and citizen satisfaction surveys continually show that residents are happy with the level of service they receive in comparison to the taxes they pay. Beyond that, a fully transparent and public process is already in place affording taxpayers the opportunity to weigh in on any budget changes the City might consider.

We believe the bill provides complications and could lead to increased costs for taxpayers. Provisions of this bill require that hearings on a proposed increase must be conducted so as not to conflict with other jurisdictions in the county. Considering the large number of taxing jurisdictions within our county this requirement presents a significant challenge for scheduling hearings and invites potential conflict.

Further, the timelines in this bill are not in coordination with current budget-adoption guidelines. This lack of coordination is a redundancy of public notification creating unnecessary administrative costs. It also presents challenges for municipalities with respect to budget hearing timing and may put municipalities in a position of not being able to comply with provisions of the law.

We agree transparency is important – especially in matters dealing with the appropriation of public funds. However, we also believe that local units of government are best equipped to handle their affairs and we think this bill is both an intrusion on local control and imposition of a second, redundant tax lid. We urge you to reject SB 294.