

Before the House Taxation Committee
Presented by Zack Pistora, Kansas Sierra Club
Proponent to HB 2091
January 28th, 2021



Chairman Smith and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on HB 2091, which would provide a refundable food sales tax credit for certain purchases of food based upon income and discontinue the nonrefundable food sales tax credit.

As a volunteer-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to securing a healthy, equitable, and eco-friendly future for current and future generations, we support the opportunity for those low-income Kansans to receive an income tax credit to help make ends meet, as HB 2091 does.

Part of our mission statement includes:

To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Concerning food policy specifically, the Sierra Club supports policies and practices designed to provide abundant healthy food, fiber and other services for all communities while maintaining the fertility of the soil and protecting the Earth's climate and the native diversity of plants and animals.

To the effect of improving the human environment here in Kansas, The Kansas Sierra Club would like to see the Legislature enact policy improvements to improve food security and drive more consumption of locally-grown foods, and tax policy reform like HB 2091 is a good start.

We know that achieving a healthy environment is dependent upon a healthy society. A healthy society is one in which all our relatives and neighbors are not suffering from starvation and food insecurity. With the pandemic, we witnessed families across America struggling economically and needing food assistance.

HB 2091 would appear to extend and expand economic assistance to a larger pool of Kansans who could use the help, compared to the existing nonrefundable food sales tax credit. We urge you to pass HB 2091.

In addition to HB 2091, we do hope the Legislature could inevitably pair this bill with other items related to food sales tax, including an overall reduction in the food sales tax statewide, as well as the elimination of food sales tax on direct sales of food grown locally in Kansas (such as those sold at our Farmers' Markets by our Kansas farmers).

Thank you for your consideration of this important topic at this critical time. Please pass HB 2091.

Zack Pistora | Legislative Director and State Lobbyist, Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club

zackpistora@gmail.com | 785-865-6503

The Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization dedicated to enjoying, exploring, and protecting our great outdoors. The Kansas Chapter represents our state's strongest grassroots voice on environmental matters for more than forty years.