



Solomon School District USD #393

113 East 7th Street

Solomon, Kansas 67480

Phone: (785) 655-2541/Fax: (785) 655-3011

Justin Coup, Superintendent

jcoup@usd393.net

Testimony before the

House Committee on Taxation

on

HB 2795

By

Justin Coup, USD 393 Superintendent of Schools

Testimony in **Support** of Changes to the Revenue Neutral Rate

Committee Chair Smith and members:

I strongly support the proposed changes to the revenue-neutral rate. These changes are crucial in ensuring fairness and transparency in our taxation system. Specifically, I am in favor of removing the 20 mills requirement for schools, implementing a universal form for all counties to use, and allowing us to publish the notice on our website.

Firstly, removing the 20 mills requirement is a significant step towards creating a better understanding for all taxpayers. Many taxpayers do not realize we do not have the option of collecting the 20 mills due to state statute. This will also help alleviate confusion from our taxpayers about what our local school boards have control over when setting the budget.

Secondly, implementing a universal form for all counties is essential for streamlining the tax assessment process. Each county may have its unique form, leading to confusion and inefficiencies. A standardized form will simplify the process for taxpayers and improve accuracy and consistency in tax assessments across the state. We currently have three counties that collect taxes for our school district. Each county does it differently, reports it at various times, and can even make mistakes because they don't understand the requirements. This will help clarify and simplify the method of reporting to each taxing entity from the county.

Lastly, publishing the notice of changes to the revenue-neutral rate on our website is crucial to transparency and public awareness. By making this information accessible to all residents, we empower taxpayers to understand the changes that affect them directly. This transparency fosters trust in our tax system and encourages civic engagement and participation. As the world continues to change with fewer local newspapers, deadlines can be missed easily, and newspapers can make mistakes. More importantly, with three counties feeding into our local school district, transparency from posting on our website makes it easier for all schools to have greater openness across multiple counties and not with a weekly or bi-weekly newspaper.

In conclusion, I urge the Committee to support these changes to the revenue-neutral rate. Removing the 20 mills requirement, implementing a universal form, and allowing us to publish notices on our website will contribute to a fairer, more transparent, and more efficient tax system for all residents. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Justin Coup, Superintendent
USD 393 Solomon Schools