



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Randy Leis, Meade County Commissioner
Before the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Senate Bill No. 196
January 11, 2024**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Kiowa

Lane

Logan

Meade

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Rush

Russell

Scott

Seward

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

Senator Tyson and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. KLPG is a non-partisan, non-profit organization comprised of elected commissioners representing the collective interests of 33 rural Kansas counties. We appreciate the opportunity to submit remarks in support of Senate Bill No. 196.

Senate Bill No 196 would reinstate local ad valorem tax reduction fund (LAVTR) transfers permitting the distribution of funds to assist a county in reducing the local property tax burden of its residents.

Historically, LAVTR transfers have been a partnership between the state and local government and an important tool for counties to keep property taxes manageable and provide taxpayers relief. However, no transfers have been made since 2004 and the accompanying \$1.7 billion in unshared revenue has meant higher property taxes to all taxpayers.

Like all units of government, counties are challenged by the necessity of providing the required services to our residents, within our limited and sometimes declining resources.

Services help keep our communities safe and allow them to grow and prosper, but sometimes we all have had to forego growth and needed maintenance due to funding challenges. For our member counties, Senate Bill No.196 brings one, two or three mills of needed property tax relief for the sole purpose of lowering property taxes.

Senate Bill No. 196 is a great step in the right direction for our future.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present this written testimony to the Committee. I encourage you to consider Senate Bill No. 196 favorably.

Randy Leis
President