

January 29, 2013

Members of the Committee on Taxation:

I am writing this letter to urge support of The **Property Tax Transparency Act** announced at the news conference on Friday. There simply must be an end to the constant escalation of taxes of all kinds that are strangling small business and working families. I commend Gov. Brownback and those legislators who stood with him on Friday for tackling this problem head on.

Until recently, my husband and I owned one of those small businesses. Now we watch our daughter and husband drastically cut personal and business spending and lay off several of their staff to keep their business viable. There is no place left to cut. Families and businesses are working hard, curbing spending, and are facing their available incomes reduced through increased taxation, are realizing the overlap of government programs, and the lack of fiscal restraint at all levels of government and the stubbornness in reducing spending.

The Property Tax Transparency Act is a critical follow up to lowering of state income taxes, so that local governments do not automatically collect higher property taxes just because home or business valuations increase. I agree that the process should be transparent so that voters know when local elected officials increase local government spending.

In closing, I urge your support of the **Property Tax Transparency Act**.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shirley Koehn
442 Waverly
Wichita, KS 67207
316-260-3224