



OSAGE COUNTY APPRAISER'S OFFICE
STACY BERRY, RMA

February 18, 2013

Chairman Richard Carlson
Members of the House Taxation Committee

Re: HB 2244

Thank you for allowing me to testify today in opposition to HB 2244 on behalf of Osage County Kansas.

There are two federal reservoirs located in Osage County, Lake Pomona and Lake Melvern. Watercraft in our County represented an appraised value of \$6,261,388 for the 2012 tax year. This equates to a total assessed value of \$1,999,005 generating tax revenue of \$285,802.29.

HB 2244 proposes eliminating watercraft from the tax roll. This represents a reduction to an already declining tax base for our local and county governments and specifically shifts and increases the tax burden for home ownership, small business, and agricultural units. HB 2244 takes another step in hindering the ability for counties like Osage to implement a diversified tax base in which to draw upon revenues to provide essential services for the people of our county.

While Osage County welcomes the outdoorsmen and watercraft to our area, we also want to be able to provide the necessary services for our Lakes in a diversified manner.

Osage would ask the Committee to reject HB 2244 on the basis that it would place an undue burden, increasing pressure, and not provide a diversified tax base for counties already pressed to find the revenue to provide for its citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacy Berry".

Stacy Berry, RMA
Osage County Appraiser