

STATE OF KANSAS



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

RANKING
MINORITY MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
ETHICS AND ELECTIONS
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
MEMBER: COMMERCE
JOINT COMMITTEES: ARTS AND CULTURAL
RESOURCES
CHILDREN'S ISSUES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
RULES AND REGULATIONS

February 26, 2013
Testimony in support of SB-165

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee:
Chair, Senator Les Donovan
Vice-Chair, Senator Caryn Tyson
Ranking Minority Member, Senator Tom Holland

Good Morning Mr. Chairman and other distinguished Members of the Committee:

Imagine owning a home in Kansas where current state law sets the tax value of property on January 1 of each year. Now, imagine that home getting blown away by an infamous Kansas spring thunder storm. While you and your family are assessing the damage to your house, seeking shelter and support from the Red Cross and wondering where you'll be next, it occurs to you that your property tax payment is due on a house that is now a pile of sticks.

When a home has just been destroyed, the last thing anyone wants to worry about is making their property tax payment, let alone making it on the value of the house prior to the destruction.

That's why I have co-sponsored a bill in the Senate that seeks to provide a reduction of property taxes for homeowners whose homes have been "destroyed or substantially destroyed due to fire, wind or other calamity."

Senate Bill 165 would allow homeowners to submit an application to their board of county commissioners for decrease of property taxes levied upon such property if the destruction occurred after January 1, but prior to August 15. If the damage occurred after August 15, the property owner can submit an application to their board of county commissioners for a property tax credit.

Disaster victims deserve temporary property tax relief. This is bi-partisan bill that seeks to provide some relief to constituents who have been affected by catastrophic events.

Thank you for your time and attention. I urge your support for SB-165

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau

SN Assmnt & Tax

2/26/13

Attachm't # 4