

To: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation, Senator Caryn Tyson, Chair

From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: March 16, 2017

Re: Testimony SB 167 – Concerning Property Taxation

Chairperson Tyson and members of the Committee, Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) appreciates the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition of SB 167. This bill would repeal the legislation that placed spending limitations on local units of government.

KFB was supportive of the original legislation creating the property tax lid. Furthermore, KFB was supportive of the compromise language passed last year allowing more exceptions to the property tax lid. KFB has made it clear we are also willing to ensure that the provisions of the legislation are workable for local units of government. Therefore, it is disappointing that there is an effort to completely repeal the law.

KFB is supportive of the general policy premise behind the current law, allowing voters to vote on increases in spending of local units of government which is disproportionately paid for by property taxes. KFB would like to ensure that whatever policy is put into place is workable for local units of government. However, we are disappointed with the efforts to repeal this law after interested parties reached a reasonable compromise last year.

In conclusion, we urge you to oppose SB 167. Thank you for your time and consideration.