



FINNEY COUNTY
KANSAS

COUNTY COMMISSION

William S. Clifford, MD, Chair | Duane Drees | Dave Jones | Larry C. Jones | Lon E. Pishny

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TESTIMONY
FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION
IN SUPPORT OF HB 2040
January 23, 2019

Chairman Johnson and Members of the House Committee on Taxation:

I appear today to support House Bill 2040. On November 7, 2017, the voters in Finney County gave approval for the governing boards of both Finney County and the City of Garden City, through an interlocal cooperation agreement, to fund four identified, and critically needed, projects with dollars generated from a 0.3% increase in the county sales tax for 15 years.

The four projects were identified by both governing boards, after gathering input from citizens and through discussions during joint governing board meetings. The projects are:

- Improvements to Jennie Barker Road from a rural road to an urban-designed road to accommodate growth on the eastern edge of the Garden City boundary.
- Construction of a fire station on the east side of Garden City to accommodate growth within that portion of the county.
- Construction of an indoor gun range, replacing a current one that is dilapidated and unsafe, to accommodate training of local and regional law enforcement officers and for use by citizen groups within the county.
- Improvements to unsafe and inadequate facilities at Lee Richardson Zoo, a major visitor attraction in the community that enhances the quality of life in our region of the state.

Finney County is the retail hub of the southwest Kansas region. Therefore, both governing boards, based on citizen input, believed sales tax was the appropriate funding source for these necessary projects. The two governing boards deemed it inappropriate to burden county taxpayers with additional property taxes to fund these projects, which are essential needs due to continued growth within our county and in our role as a regional hub.

On behalf of the Board of Finney County Commissioners and the Commissioners for the City of Garden City, I respectfully ask members of the House Committee on Taxation to reflect, in statute, the action approved by the voters of Finney County.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Lon E. Pishny, Finney County Commissioner

Administrative Center

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