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EDGERTONKS.ORG

Date: March 12, 2020
To: Chairman Steven Johnson and House Taxation Committee Members
From: Beth Linn, City Administrator
Re: Written Only -Testimony in Opposition to HB 2656

As you consider House Bill 2656, the City of Edgerton respectfully asks that you reject this legislation. HB 2656 would be detrimental to cities across the state. In 2019, this bill would have resulted in \$264.9 million being redistributed from cities to counties.

The City of Edgerton prides itself on being a good steward of taxpayer dollars. We build new roads, repair failing pavement, improve water and sewer services, maintain our parks and have developed one of the premiere logistics and distribution centers in the country. Tax dollars are spent wisely to make sure our residents see a return on their investment.

I urge you to reject this bill. The current formula provides cities with stability, allowing us to plan projects for the future. In the coming year alone, we plan to install a new bridge over railroad tracks on the south side of our city. This project will improve public safety by increasing access for first responders when trains are blocking the crossing. We are also in the initial stages of building a new community gathering space in our downtown. The Greenspace project will give our residents more available public areas to host meetings and events. It will likely include a workout facility and gymnasium to improve community health.

The County Sales Tax makes up about seven percent of the City of Edgerton's revenues. In 2019, the City of Edgerton received \$333,910 from Johnson County. Of that total, \$188,820 came from the county's general sales tax; the rest was from dedicated sales taxes. This money goes directly into our general fund. We do not use sales tax dollars for debt service.

With a population of 1,771, a seven percent reduction would be detrimental to the City of Edgerton and the quality of life for our residents. We may have to eliminate projects or cut personnel to cover the gap in our budget from the loss of these sales tax dollars. Keep our city's future bright and vote no on SB 396.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Beth Linn', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Beth Linn
City of Edgerton
City Administrator