

To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

From: Chardae Caine, Research Associate

Date: March 20, 2019

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 191

I would like to thank Chairwoman Tyson and the Committee for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 191. Last year the Joint Legislative Transportation Vision Task Force held several meetings to consider how the State of Kansas should proceed regarding transportation projects. The proposed legislation is one of the recommendations provided by the Task Force.

Our members cities still strongly oppose the imposition of a tax lid on local governments. The entire framework was built with little concern for workability. The lid is contradictory to representative democracy, where duly-elected local public officials direct the functions of day-to-day governing, such as budgeting. Primary responsibility of construction projects is placed on cities and counties, the only local government entities impacted by the current property tax lid. Should a local tax lid remain in place, however, our members are in support of an exception regarding construction projects.

The addition of expenses relating to transportation projects as an exception from the required election procedures under the current property tax lid will allow cities to meet the needs of residents efficiently. This exception would impact our residents directly and all will benefit if local elected officials are authorized to consider specific transportation projects for our communities. The bill also limits the transportation projects to 20% of the appropriation or budget of the next preceding year and requires the project to be approved by the Secretary of Transportation. Sustainable and reliable roads and bridges are a necessity.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the Committee pass SB 191 to the full Senate for consideration.