



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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March 13, 2023

Adam Smith, Chairman
House Taxation Committee
State Capitol, Room 346-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to SB 248

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Board of Riley County Commissioners unanimously opposes SB 248.

This legislation creates a new sales tax exemption. It prohibits every city's and county's existing countywide retailers sales taxes from applying to "food." If this new sales tax exemption had been in place during all of 2022, it is estimated Riley County's total countywide sales tax receipts would have been reduced by \$1,238,044.14. One half of those "lost" sales tax dollars would have gone directly into the county general fund, our operating fund. That fund pays for countywide ambulance, health department and sanitary code services our citizens expect to be in place every day. The other half of those "lost" sales tax dollars would have paid for road and bridge construction projects citizens were promised when they voted in favor of the local sales tax.

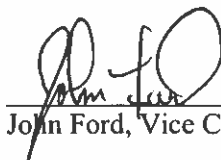
The shocking thing is our estimate is based on 2022 sales tax receipts from only two specific NAICS codes: "supermarkets" and "convenience stores." This suggests the real sales tax loss to Riley County will be much larger if SB 248 passes as currently written.

SB 248 is an example of how even a carefully drafted legislative proposal, generated by the best of intentions, can dramatically undermine county sales tax revenue. The local sales taxes which will be undermined by passage of SB 248 are already in place across the state. And those local sales taxes were approved by local voters.

Thank you for allowing this Board to testify in opposition to SB 248.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
RILEY COUNTY, KANSAS



John Ford, Vice Chairman

cc: Kathryn Focke, Chairwoman
Greg McKinley, Member