

To: Chairman, Representative Adam Smith and House Committee on Taxation Members

From: Joann Knight, Executive Director

Date: March 10, 2023

Subject: Opposition of SB 248

Dear Chairman, Representative Adam Smith and House Committee on Taxation:

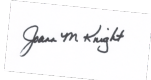
Thank you for considering our testimony on behalf of the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation in opposition of Senate Bill 248. Senate Bill 248 will result in an overall loss to the City of Dodge City's general budget which funds essential services.

The Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation is a non-profit organization that promotes growth and development of existing businesses and pursues quality new business to help sustain the economic vitality of the area. In 1997 the Development Corporation promoted the "Why Not Dodge?" sales tax initiative to help improve the quality of life for our community. The one-half cent county retail sales tax and one-half cent city retail sales tax was approved for quality of life and economic development purposes.

Our community voted to approve the "Why Not Dodge?" sales tax and most recently the road improvement sales tax. Senate Bill 248 will negatively impact both programs. Many public facilities rely on the "Why Not Dodge?" sales tax for operations and maintenance and the road improvement sales tax is needed to improve our growing community and help reduce the property tax burden. Loss of this sales tax will force us to increase property tax. Senate Bill 248 also doesn't take into consideration other economic development initiatives that are impacted, like CID districts and TIF districts.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joann Knight
Executive Director