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SEAN E. TARWATER, SR.
27TH DISTRICT

Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
February 14, 2024
Proponent, SB 468

Dear Chairman Tyson, Vice Chair Peck, Ranking Member Holland, and Members of the Committee,

Please accept this testimony as a Proponent for SB468

I am the State Representative for the Kansas House District 27. As I knock on doors, attend coffees and town halls, I am constantly reminded that my constituents are burdened by inflation, and especially when it comes to local property taxes. In fact, the number one issue is the fact that property taxes increase every year. We are taxing people out of their homes.

I can tell you that I have received hundreds of emails and phone calls against certain projects, and I attended the planning meetings held in District 27 and the surrounding areas. 100% of the emails, and almost everyone that attends the meetings are against these projects. Yet, most of them end up progressing.

I can also tell you that I watch the revenue neutral meetings where hundreds of my constituents beg the local governments to vote NO to raising their property taxes. We hear heartbreaking stories, and even some tears. Yet the local governments continue to vote against their constituents, and raise their property taxes.

Again this year, Property Taxes are the number one issue.

Unfortunately, there is not a whole lot we can do at the state level to help with this issue. This is a rare occasion that we can help. The bill is simple.

If a local government can afford to give a developer property tax abatements, then they certainly don't need to raise their constituents property tax.

There are about 50 or so opponents.... all government entities that just see the \$\$ and that fail to listen to their constituents when they line up for hours to testify against

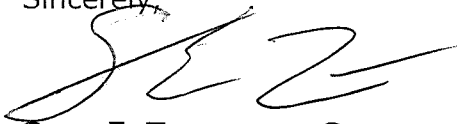
raising the revenue neutral mil levy. I ask you to ask yourself, how many of those opponents are here to speak for your constituents?

I hear my constituents' cry for help, as I always do in these projects and the issue of property tax. I listen to my constituents, and that is why I am here fighting against what seems to be all big government conferees.

This is your chance to show your constituents that you are listening to them. We all talk a big game that we are going to fight property tax. This is our chance to put our votes where our mouths are.

Thank you for your time today,

Sincerely,



SEAN E. TARWATER, SR.
KANSAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT 27

Chairman - Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

Chairman - Legislative Post Audit Committee

Member - Appropriations - Insurance - Pensions, Investments and Benefits

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