



March 13th, 2024

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2815
House Taxation Committee
Written Only

Chairman Smith and Members of the House Taxation Committee:

The Cities of Prairie Village, Roeland Park, and Westwood Hills oppose HB 2815 which would abolish LAVTRF and the County and City Revenue Sharing Fund. The LAVTRF, if funded, would be an important tool for local governments to provide property tax relief at the local level, and HB 2815 takes that option off the table.

For decades, until 2004, the State upheld Kansas statute by funding LAVTR through excess sales tax dollars, enabling Kansas communities to stabilize, and lower, local property tax. Property taxes, particularly residential, have increased to cover the cost of services provided by local governments. Eliminating LAVTRF funding contributed to increased property taxes. Thus, it is crucial that local governments have the ability to use LAVTR to reduce property taxes and fund essential services our citizens depend on, not just for quality of life, but for safety and public welfare.

We oppose HB 2815 to keep the option available that the Legislature will finally return to funding this property relief tool. We also oppose the portion of HB 2815 impacting the city/county revenue sharing program.

Rising property taxes are the number one issue for many Kansas families, and we could be using the LAVTRF to help offset the property tax burden. For these reasons, we ask you to oppose HB 2815. Thank you for your consideration and we welcome any questions or further discussion you may have on this matter.

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