

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

HOUSE BILL 2317
Testimony of Thomas G. Franzen, CTP, CPFO
Johnson County Treasurer

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Johnson County and the Kansas County Treasurers Association on House Bill 2317.

Johnson County fully supports HB 2317. Currently, county treasurers are tasked with mailing all tax statements via first class mail. This process is very expensive, time consuming, and outdated, based on current technology. Our office spent \$125,000 in postage expense in 2022, which was our largest non-personnel expense, and another \$50,000 in printing costs. These expenses increase about 3-5% annually due to USPS postage increases and the rising cost of paper products. HB 2317 would help reduce some of these postage and printing costs by allowing treasurers to deliver statements electronically to taxpayers that opt-in.

An electronic delivery option would allow treasurers to greatly expedite the delivery process via email or other electronic means. Most industries have already moved to paperless billing options, and our customers have come to expect that same level of service from their local government.

In 2021, Senate Bill 13 was passed into law as K.S.A. 79-2988, which allows county clerks to transmit the revenue neutral rate notice to taxpayers by electronic means. The taxpayers that opt into that electronic delivery service should be given the same opportunity to receive their property tax statements in a similar manner.

In conclusion, HB 2317 will reduce postage and printing costs for local governments, increase the efficiency of statement delivery to taxpayers, and allow local governments to meet customer expectations with modern, paperless billing options.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your consideration of HB 2317. We respectfully request you pass this bill out of committee for further consideration by the House.