



House Committee on Taxation

Neutral Testimony on HCR 5009

Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs

Thursday, March 16, 2023

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit neutral testimony on HCR 5009, which lowers the assessed valuation rate on residential property in the constitution from 11.5% to 9%.

We are supportive of offering this reduced valuation rate for residential property, however, we don't understand why this only addresses residential property and not all classifications. We would support this constitutional amendment if all classifications were amended to receive an equitable reduction.

All property owners are frustrated with the long-time practice of counties collecting more property taxes due to valuation increases but failing to lower the mill rate to offset any increase in value. The legislature has taken steps to address this through the truth in taxation law, but it doesn't offset the increased burden experienced by Kansans. In our CEO poll last year, 72% of business owners said their property taxes were too high and should be lowered when asked if they felt property taxes were too high, too low, or just right.

In closing, we would ask that if HCR 5009 were to move forward, all property classes receive an equal reduction in their assessed valuation rate. I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.