

Senate Bill 79

Proponent in-person testimony
Kansas Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

Chairman Tyson and members of the Committee:

Without some big statewide source of income like oil and gas, tourism, etc. the only way to relieve property taxes is to shift some of the burden onto income tax and sales tax. That is what the LAVTR was designed to do. It pulled some of the weight off property tax and put it on sales tax.

Any exemptions you give to certain groups (i.e. elderly, fixed income, home stead, etc.) is just a tax shift. Someone else will still have to make up the difference.

Leavenworth County has a special disadvantage using property tax to pay our bills with since we are 35% tax exempt with Fort Leavenworth, Prisons, Schools and churches in our county. There are 90,000 people in Leavenworth county but only 30,000 parcels are paying property taxes. So a few people are paying a lot. If you go to income tax or sales tax, you get way more people paying a little. More over, the people making more money can afford to pay more taxes. People making a little money pay less taxes. Property tax system doesn't care how much money you make.

Jeff Culbertson
1st District County Commissioner
Leavenworth County