



LEAVENWORTH LANSING CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
518 SHAWNEE STREET, LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048

January 10, 2024

Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Honorable Caryn Tyson, Chair
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: Support for SB 196

Dear Senators:

Thank you for this opportunity to support Senate Bill 196. As the Leavenworth-Lansing Chamber of Commerce, we understand the significant burden of taxes; both on esteemed legislators tasked with finding solutions to reduce taxes, and on businesses and residents faced with finding ways to pay them.

In Kansas, property tax is the primary funding source for county budgets. However, that doesn't work for a number of counties, ours among them. Leavenworth county is more than 40% tax exempt due to our VA, prisons, Fort Leavenworth, civic and education institutes. While we're happy to make our homes and businesses around these organizations, it unfairly places 60% of the tax burden on residents and businesses who are *not* tax exempt.

LAVTR was working. What you couldn't see from the KPI report was the inflated home values as our region grows in popularity as everyone moves inward. Because of this, counties like ours were hit twice as hard; not only did we lose the LAVTR, but we also got hit with over-inflated values.

The Chamber understands that returning the LAVTR program won't fix everything immediately. But it will *immediately* restore trust and good faith between our county and state, and people and county. Our County Commissioners adopted a resolution promising to use any LAVTR funds to reduce property taxes.

Returning SB 196 is the most immediate service you can do to assist the businesses and taxpayers of Kansas. This would be a significant legacy, boost businesses, and help homeowners.

Sincerely,

Jen Anders

Jen Anders
President/CEO
Jen@LLChamber.com

"FORWARD AS ONE COMMUNITY"