



RENO COUNTY COMMISSION  
206 West First Avenue  
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501  
620-694-2929

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January 11, 2024

Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee Members  
[Assessment.Taxation@senate.ks.gov](mailto:Assessment.Taxation@senate.ks.gov)

**RE: Support of Senate Bill 196**

Dear Senate and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the Reno County Commission, we wanted the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee members to know that Reno County supports Senate Bill 196 in its current form to reinstate the Local Ad Valorem Tax Reduction Fund (LAVTR) as set in Kansas State Statute 79-2959.

Reno County Commissioners are mindful of the property tax burden being placed on our fellow citizens. To help ease the burden board members strive to make good decisions for our community, including adopting a budget that reflects the collective needs and values of our residents. Each year, Commissioners must weigh competing costs against perceived benefits as we consider what is expected of us from our constituents.

Under the 1965 LAVTR Fund law (KSA 79-2959), 3.63% of sales tax and compensating use tax as well as the local share of cigarette stamp taxes and cereal malt beverage taxes collected by the State of Kansas are to be returned to city and county governments. These funds are then to be applied directly to lowering local government property tax levies dollar-for-dollar.

This partnership began in 1937 but was effectively cancelled in 2003 when the Kansas legislature made no fund allocation – a practice that the legislature has continued to do each year since. This inaction means that from 2004 through 2022, local governments have not received more than \$1.7 billion in legally owed revenues that have been collected by the state. Every dollar of that amount would have reduced local property taxes. In essence, taxpayers are paying these taxes twice. Once at the store when they purchase their goods and then a second time when they pay their property taxes to the local government.

We greatly appreciate your willingness to hold a hearing on this bill and hope that you see the benefits of reinstating the LATVR payments and approve this bill to go before the full Senate and House in 2024. Thank you for your time on this issue and service in the Kansas Legislature.

Sincerely,

Daniel Friesen  
Reno County Commission Chair