



**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2396**  
**Mr. Daniel Murray**  
**Kansas State Director, National Federation of Independent Business**

**House Committee on Taxation**  
**March 4, 2025**

Chair and members of the committee, I am pleased to submit written testimony in support of the House Bill 2396. NFIB Kansas is the leading small business organization in Kansas representing small and independent businesses. A non-profit, nonpartisan organization founded in 1943, NFIB Kansas represents the consensus views of its over 3,600 members throughout the state.

House Bill 2396 creates a protest petition process that allows voters to challenge excessive property tax increases. If a taxing jurisdiction approves a budget with property tax revenues exceeding specified limits, residents can submit a protest petition within 30 days. If 10% of qualified voters sign the petition, the taxing jurisdiction will be restricted to the maximum allowable tax increase defined in the bill. The bill also creates the ASTRA fund to assist local units which comply with the tax limitation provisions.

This bill generally addresses a chief priority and persistent challenge of small business owners—property tax rates. Reducing Kansans' tax burden is top of mind for small business owners, particularly when it comes to our state's property taxes. Ahead of the Kansas Legislature's 2025 session, state members of the National Federation of Independent Business strongly support property tax cuts, according to NFIB's annual survey. More than eighty-eight percent of NFIB members, who responded to our survey, support reducing property taxes, like the statewide property tax mill levy, local ad valorem rates and other property taxes.

As of 2022, there are more than 258,000 thousand small businesses – representing 99.1 percent of all firms in Kansas– and they employ over 600,000 workers, over half of the state's workforce. Indeed, small businesses are the backbone of the Kansas economy. And taxes matter to our vital small business sector. In our most recent *Small Business Problems and Priorities*, NFIB confirmed that taxes continue to be a significant problem for small business owners. The study found that tax rates *AND* tax complexity are four of the top ten problems confronting small businesses.

As Main Street continues to grapple with inflation and ever-rising property tax rates and valuations, it's incumbent on lawmakers to make our state's tax code competitive with neighboring states and prioritize economic growth. We believe this bill applies an appropriate recourse for affected taxpayers while also providing support for local taxing entities which comply. Thank you for your consideration of our comments, and we respectfully ask you to vote favorably for the passage of this legislation.