



**Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 195
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Monday, March 3, 2025

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large-sized businesses across the state, advocating for policies which improve the economic climate in Kansas. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 195, which establishes the property tax task force to review the property tax system in Kansas.

As we have stated before to this committee, property taxes remain a significant concern to the business community in the state. Kansas has one of the highest commercial/industrial property tax burdens in the country according to the Lincoln Institute. In fact, in our December 2024 CEO poll of Kansas business owners, 79% felt property taxes need to be reduced- an increase of 10% from last year's survey. From 1997 to 2010, Kansas saw property taxes increase 94% in those 13 years- part of which was during the last time LAVTRF was fully funded when property taxes grew at a faster rate than when the state did not fund the program.

But property tax solutions are not so easy, as they are levied at the local government level. While a task force might not provide immediate answers for taxpayers, if filled with the right experts, their recommendations could provide sound solutions for lawmakers going forward on how to address the significant property tax burden impacting businesses and homeowners across our state.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 195, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.