



**Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 280
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Thursday, March 6, 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 appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 280, a relatively simple concept of requiring a vote of the citizens if their property taxes increase beyond the rate of inflation.

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.

Paired with the state's truth in taxation laws, this public vote requirement would be a good addition to protecting property owners from excessive increases in property taxes from local governments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 280, and I'd be happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.