

To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee, Senator Caryn Tyson, Chair

From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: March 6, 2025

Re: Written Testimony in support of SB 280: Requiring the approval by a majority of electors voting at an election in order for the governing body of any taxing entity to increase its total amount of property tax to be levied by more than the annual rate of inflation.

Chair Tyson and members of the Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony as a proponent of SB 280. My name is John Donley, and I am speaking today on behalf of Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB). KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

KFB has been advocating for lower property taxes for years. KFB policy supports a "fair, just, and equitable tax system that is not detrimental to production agriculture." We are fully behind efforts that will provide incentives and motivations to curb property tax increases at the state and local level. This bill will provide an incentive for local governments to control their spending to levels and provide necessary property tax relief.

As we have testified in the past, the state and local government's reliance on property taxes has reached a point where action must be taken. We are fully aware that similar policy was in effect a few years ago. Unfortunately, that law had a multitude of exceptions where the property tax lid became ineffective.

KFB acknowledges that there are multiple options proposed during this legislative session that will try to provide incentives to local governments to reduce or, at the least, control property tax levies. We are willing to work with the legislature to encourage any approach that will work toward that goal, whether it be the "carrot" or the "stick."

We look forward to working with this committee and the rest of the legislature to achieve the goal of truly lowering Kansan's property taxes; therefore, we are supportive of this effort.