



Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Renew Kansas Biofuels Association
816 SW Tyler, Topeka, Kansas | 785.220.5211

March 6, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
From: Randy Stookey, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs and General Counsel
Re: **Joint Proponent Testimony on Senate Bill 280, requiring the approval 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.**

Chairperson Tyson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Senate Bill 280. This testimony is submitted jointly on behalf of the Kansas Grain and Feed Association (KGFA) and Renew Kansas Biofuels Association (Renew Kansas).

KGFA is the state association of the grain receiving, storage, processing and shipping industry in Kansas. KGFA's membership includes over 950 Kansas business locations and represents 99% of the commercially licensed grain storage in the state. Renew Kansas is the trade association of the Kansas biofuels industry.

Across Kansas, our member grain elevators and biofuel processing plants are strong corporate citizens and large employers. Our members provide good paying jobs and, annually, pay millions of dollars in property taxes to help support schools and local government.

The ability of our members to operate competitive businesses is often determined by the amount of fixed costs on their operation, such as property taxes. In recent years, however, the property tax burden on our members has grown exponentially. For this reason, our associations support legislation that would reduce the property tax burden on our industry members and all taxpayers.

Senate Bill 280 seeks to decrease the growing property tax burden on Kansas property owners by requiring that any proposed increase in property taxes, greater than the annual rate of inflation, be approved by the taxpayers through a public vote.

Essentially, this bill merely requires that local taxing authorities justify, to the satisfaction of their taxpayers, the reasons for any proposed property tax increase greater than the annual rate of inflation.

It is our opinion that the provisions in this bill are reasonable, represent sound public tax policy, and will work to lower the overall property tax burden on all taxpayers. For these reasons, we stand in support of the bill.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 280. We respectfully request that the committee pass the bill out favorably.