



Neutral Testimony to the
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
Senate Bill No. 280
Written Only
Dr. JuliAnn Mazachek, President
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Chair Tyson, Vice Chair Peck, Ranking Member Corson and members of the committee,

I am JuliAnn Mazachek, President of Washburn University. I appreciate the opportunity to provide neutral testimony regarding Senate Bill No. 280, which mandates voter approval before a taxing entity can increase its total property tax levy by more than the annual inflation rate. Notably, the bill draft excludes certain statutory mill rate levies from this requirement.

Washburn University, as a political subdivision, is authorized to levy property taxes for specific purposes related to construction or capital equipment. This authorization is subject to a limitation of 3 mills per year, as outlined in K.S.A. 13-13a23. This statutory authority, approved by the legislature, has applied to Washburn University since we became a Municipal University in 1941.

In accordance with K.S.A. 79-2988 et seq., Washburn University is required to adhere to all revenue-neutral rate requirements. These requirements include publishing a notice, holding a public hearing, and obtaining approval of a resolution from our governing body, the Washburn University Board of Regents.

Should the Committee choose to advance this legislation, we respectfully request an amendment to Senate Bill No. 280, Section 1(c), to include K.S.A. 13-13a23 alongside other statutorily prescribed mill levies exempted from the provisions of the bill.

Please let me know if you have questions. Thank you for allowing my testimony.