



6 March 2019

Representative Steven Johnson
Chair, House Taxation Committee

Representative Johnson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2345. The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce has consistently opposed the property tax lid currently in place in Kansas. The property tax lid strips local units of government of the flexibility to tackle their challenges with local solutions. Further, we believe our locally-elected officials are fully qualified to make tough decisions that are most appropriate for their communities.

The current law discourages local units of government from lowering property taxes when they are in a position to do so. Under current law once a community lowers their rate it becomes the new standard and subjects that newly reduced rate to the provision of the current property tax lid statutes. In short, they are penalized for reducing property tax rates when they can for fear they can't readjust it later when circumstances warrant an increase.

By passing HB 2345 you remove this disincentive and provide local units of government the flexibility to set their property taxes to any level of the previous seven years. We believe this removes the current disincentive and gives local elected officials the ability to do what they believe is in the best interest of their community. We urge you to recommend HB 2345 favorable for passage.

Kevin M. Walker

Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce