



20 March 2019

Senator Caryn Tyson
Chair, Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

Senator Tyson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 191. 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.

Recent budgetary shortfalls at the state level have shifted the burden of providing the services expected by citizens to local units of government. At the same time the ability of our locally-elected officials to do what they think is in the best interest of their communities has been restricted through laws such as the property tax lid. We believe the exemption for transportation projects provided for in SB 191 is reasonable and fair.

The governor and legislature are working to recover from years of diversions from the state highway fund. However, that is a long-term effort and the exemption proposed by SB 191 gives municipalities one more tool at their disposal to meet community transportation needs without calling for a costly election.

We have complete confidence in the abilities of our locally-elected officials to serve their communities without artificial barriers. We ask that you also show confidence in these officials and recommend SB 191 favorably for passage.

Kevin M. Walker

Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce