

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 248, which in its current state would eliminate all city sales tax collected from grocery stores. This legislation would have a drastic, negative impact on cities throughout the state.

Much like the rest of rural Kansas, the population of Columbus has declined over time. Between 2010-2020, our city lost over 11% of our residents. Each year, it is a tremendous challenge to provide services to our residents while keeping a stable mill levy. Our department staff work diligently to stretch our budgets as far as possible. This bill would deal a devastating blow to our community. We would almost certainly be forced to raise property taxes in order to make up the revenue shortfall.

The modest savings on grocery bills (a whopping \$9 for every \$100 spent) will do far less to improve the lives of our residents than the cumulative negative impact this will have on the city's budget as a whole. I plead with the legislature to consider the costs associated with this bill and the detrimental impact it will have on cities throughout Kansas.

Sincerely,

Jake Letner

City Administrator

City of Columbus, KS

jletner@columbusks.gov

(620) 429-6173