



To: House Taxation Committee Chair Smith and Committee Members

From: Stacy Barnes, Greensburg City Administrator

Date: March 10, 2023

RE: Opponent Testimony on SB 248

Thank you Chairman Smith and members of the committee for the opportunity to share testimony in opposition to SB 248.

This bill will have negative impact on cities and counties that rely on sales tax collections in their budgets, specifically rural cities and counties that have fewer retailers that collect sales tax. The City of Greensburg collects 1% with .5% going to our Capital Improvement Fund and .5% going towards bond payments on the Big Well Museum. In 2022, \$230,000 was collected from this 1% sales tax collection. Although that may seem like a small amount of money, in a small city that is a significant impact to our budget. And significant to budget obligations already in place.

One of our largest sales tax collectors in Greensburg/Kiowa County is our Dillons grocery store. This reduction would have a great impact on our budgets as presumably the greatest portion of sales tax revenue comes from food sales.

Even though it is proposed for this bill to take effect January 1, 2024 and we'd have time to budget for the difference, the difference will have to be made up elsewhere. Sales tax collections not just come from local property owners, but also renters and travelers through town. Our Dillons grocery store is on busy Highway 54/400 and daily sees many customers traveling through town. Without these revenues, the City may have to turn to increased property taxes, placing the burden solely on property owners.



This bill also goes against home rule. Our citizens voted for these sales taxes in 2006 and 2007 to support local projects. I understand the need to help consumers with inflation relief, but this would be harmful to local property owners and governments that rely on sales tax collections. This bill would not eliminate a burden it shifts the burden elsewhere and onto a smaller spectrum of people.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony against SB 248.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Stacy Barnes

City Administrator

administrator@greensburgks.org

620-723-2751