

As a manager of a small rural city in southeast Kansas, I am deeply concerned about the impact of the proposed sales tax reduction on our community. We are already struggling to make ends meet as we recover from the pandemic and face additional headwinds from a once again weakening economy.

Like many small cities, we have made long-term financial planning with the very limited resources we have available that cannot be changed when revenue is promptly curtailed. Furthermore, it is difficult for us to remain competitive in the current job market without increasing financial incentives, reducing our income makes it even harder to do that. Our infrastructure is also in dire need of repair, and residents are already stretched thin by property taxes which are quite high already; coming from Arkansas my tax rate tripled arriving in Kansas even though my property is worth less here (food for thought).

While reducing sales taxes on food may seem like a simple solution to help citizens during tough times, it is only one more cut in the death of a thousand cuts for small cities like ours and ultimately will harm citizens in other ways. The ultimate outcome is a decline in the quality of life for our citizens, as cities are forced to either reduce services already cut to the bone or raise taxes making this a Sophie's choice to tip that first domino to begin with.

Therefore, I urge you to consider putting a hold on this plan until it makes more economic sense, or at least offset the reduction with a supportable, sustainable cash flow to ensure cities are made whole as part of SB248 and not months/years after the fact; if at all. This will allow us to continue providing essential services and maintain our quality of life without further burdening our already struggling residents. Thank you for your consideration.



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