

May 22, 2024

The Honorable Laura Kelly
Kansas State Capitol
Topeka KS

Dear Governor Kelly,

We appreciate your desire to provide tax relief to Kansans. We agree the current budget surpluses provide a tremendous opportunity to reduce the overall tax burden for all Kansans.

You have said the high property tax burden is the complaint you hear most. We hear the same criticism from our respective members. While most property taxes are levied at the local level, the 20-mill statewide assessment provides an opportunity for you and the legislature to address the property tax burden for all Kansans.

You have been consistent in suggesting an increase in the residential exemption to the statewide assessment and the legislature has agreed with you at the \$100,000 level. We do not take issue with providing relief to homeowners, but we would also ask for your support for broad-based property tax relief through a reduction in the statewide assessment rate. This would provide relief to owners of real commercial, industrial, and agricultural property and owners of personal property, in addition to homeowners. Specifically, we believe a statewide assessment rate of 18 mills and a residential exemption of \$100,000 would provide broad-based relief to benefit all classes of property owners in Kansans.

We believe this broad-based property tax relief coupled with consensus provisions such as eliminating income tax on Social Security income, accelerating the elimination of sales tax on food purchases, and syncing the privilege tax with other corporate taxes would enjoy strong, bipartisan support among legislators. Under this approach, money would remain available for you and the legislature to pursue income tax relief, whether that occurs during the special session or next session.

The undersigned organizations ask you to work with the legislature to enact these consensus provisions and provide meaningful tax relief for all Kansans.

Kansas Association of REALTORS®
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Bankers Association
Kansas Building Industry Association, Inc.
Kansas Chamber of Commerce
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Corn Growers Association
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Grain Sorghum Producers Association
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Manufactured Housing Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kansas Soybean Association
National Federation of Independent Business
Propane Marketers Association of Kansas