

HOMETOWN MARKET
BRENDA JOHNSON (OWNER)
POB 519
BIRD CITY, KS 67731

FEBRUARY 1, 2018

BRENDA JOHNSON
OWNER HOMETOWN MARKET
PROPONENT
SCR 1604

Chairwomen Tyson and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 1604.

As owner of Hometown Market in Bird City, Kansas, I feel lowering sales tax on food is important in that neighboring states such as Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri and Oklahoma have 0-4.5% sales tax as we are 6.5%. I being near Nebraska and Colorado deal with the 0%.

As stated, 6.5% plus county and city tax making Cheyenne County at 8.5% , I experience many conversations of customers telling me of shopping in neighboring states to avoid sales tax on food items. As a small business owner, it is tough enough to survive in a town of 500 or less, let alone hear of shopping out of town and State.

If we did not have tax on food, and people stay in state (Kansas) it would help raise small business revenue.

I am a proud small business owner and take pride in my grocery store. Some services I provide are as follows:

KNOWING MY CUSTOMERS NEEDS
SERVING MEALS
DELEVERING TO SHUT-INS
BEING AVAILABLE FOR DISASTERS SUCH AS:
SNOW STORMS, FIRES, TORNADOES.... etc.

It is time to help Kansas Citizens to be proud to say "I SHOP AT HOME" thanks to NO tax on food items.

In 2014 America's Health Rankings for the State of Kansas dropped from 8th to 27th.

I supply fresh produce, (some organic), fresh meat and a willingness to search for needs of my customers. Hoping they shop at home. No tax could help them buy due to savings!!

Kansas also spent \$1.6 billion on Obesity related expenditures in 2009.

At 6.5% the tax is second highest in the nation. Plus each county and city governments can levy additional taxes, bringing the total as high as 11.5% in some areas. Would you stay in state to shop at 11.5% if 25 miles away is 0%??

Lowering sales tax on food items would benefit the Kansas economy while putting dollars back into the pockets of Kansas families who need it most. For these reasons, we ask the committee to support SCR 1604.