

Date: March 13, 2020

To: Chairman Steven Johnson and House Committee on Taxation

From: Troy Unruh, Mayor of Garden City; Duane Drees, Finney County Chair


Re: Testimony in Opposition to HB 2656

Chairman Johnson and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 2656 on behalf of the City of Garden City and Finney County.

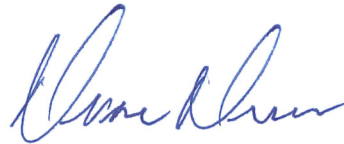
The City of Garden City and Finney County have consciously coordinated the authorization and use of sales tax over the past 30 years. The proposed legislation puts our working relationship at risk and discourages cooperation at a time when we should be encouraging cooperation between cities and counties.

The City of Garden City generates sales tax revenue through our retail stores that serve as a regional hub for western Kansas, southeast Colorado, the Oklahoma panhandle and the Texas panhandle. As the regional hub, the sales tax revenue is generated by purchases made by people that do not reside within Finney County. The City of Garden City and Finney County use sales tax revenue to fund several capital improvement projects within the city, street improvements and as a way to reduce our reliance on Ad Valorem Tax. Any and all sales tax that is taken away from the City will either result in a lack of supportive services for the community or the revenue will have to be replaced by increased property taxes.

Based on this testimony, the City of Garden City and Finney County requests you not to pass out HB 2656.



Troy Unruh, Mayor  
City of Garden City



Duane Drees, Chair  
Finney County Board

