



James R. Daily • Bob Esfeld • Shawn Hutchinson • Kirby Krier • Jennifer Sahertz • County Commissioners

February 8, 2021

TO: House Tax Committee

REF: HB 2142

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, has been briefed on HB 2142, which would require Kansas counties to reimburse businesses for property tax beginning December 31, 2019, if they were shut down or had capacity limited during the COVID-19 pandemic. Barton County strongly opposes this bill.

While it appears to allow for an application to be made to County Commissioners, it does not appear to allow any sort of discretion on the part of Commissioners and is not specific as to the reason behind the shutdown. This could conceptually mean that if a business was or is shut down for illegal operations, health code violations, or other issues, that business could apply and receive a full property tax reimbursement from the County's general fund.

Barton County is opposed to HB 2142. We ask that the committee not move forward on this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James R. Daily
Commission Chairman