

Rep. Adam Smith, Chair

Rep. Les Mason, Vice Chair

Rep. Jim Gartner, Ranking Minority Member

**Committee on Assessment and Taxation**

Cory Motes, District 3 Cherokee County Commissioner

Monday, February 15, 2021

**Support for S.B. No. 21, Approving election for sales tax authority for Cherokee County**

I write to you today to support S.B. 21 that will continue a sales tax in Cherokee County that will provide additional funding to our first responders, mainly our EMS services. In November of 2020, our county's residence cast their vote in overwhelming support, with roughly 3/4 of votes in favor of this tax continuation. In addition, to funding our EMS services, this tax continuation will also provide necessary funding for renovations and maintenance of county buildings and facilities.

This bill will allow us to reinstate a continuation of a sales tax that Cherokee County people have been paying since 2006. This will not increase their taxes from years past but rather continue the current rate to provide additional funding for our EMS and county services.

This pandemic has taken a toll on our nation, state, and local communities for over a year. Now more than ever, our First Responders need our support to help our citizens and be able to purchase the necessary equipment they need to keep the people of Cherokee County, themselves, and their families safe.

I strongly urge the committee to pass S.B. 21 and bring it upon the house floor. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.