

Date: February 14, 2024
Senate Bill 468: Opposition
From: City of Basehor
Subject: Copy of Verbal Testimony

Good morning. My name is Maddie Waldeck and I am the Deputy City Administrator for the City of Basehor. I'd like to start by thanking Madam Chair Senator Tyson and all of the members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation for the opportunity to give verbal testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 468.

Basehor is a small but growing community in the greater Kansas City Area. As of the last US census, Basehor is the 2nd fastest growing city in Kansas with a population of 5,000 or more. Our population has grown by nearly 50% in the last 10 years.

The City of Basehor adopted a set of Economic Development Policies in 2020 that outlines the City's general parameters for considering and awarding incentives for eligible developments in Basehor. Since that time, the City of Basehor has awarded one property tax incentive of 75% abatement for a memory care facility, which was an expansion of an existing facility that offers much needed services for our residents. The City of Basehor's Governing Body has been incredibly conservative with awarding incentives for development and takes great care to only award incentives to projects that truly fill a need in our community.

The City of Basehor fully complies with the Revenue Neutral Rate requirements and takes even extra efforts to engage the community in the budget process. Further, Basehor also posts notices of public hearings not only in the required publications but also additional communication channels, such as our local newsletter and social media.

The City of Basehor tries to balance the needs and wants of the community throughout the entire budget process. Basehor understands there may be communities that are more liberal with economic development incentives and may not be as transparent while considering these incentives. We hope that by working together we can come to a solution for this problem while not removing the ability to have local control from local elected officials.

The City of Basehor opposes Senate Bill 468 and would be honored to meet with whomever appropriate to discuss possible solutions to the problem that Senate Bill 468 is trying to address without penalizing those communities who should not be penalized.