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TOPEKA

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**Representative Joe Patton Testimony
House Taxation Committee
January 24, 2012**

House Bill 2212

Chairman Carlson, members of the Committee, Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on House Bill 2212.

This bill HB 2212 would stabilize taxes for taxpayers and still give government predictable streams of revenue for providing essential services.

Kansans want more government accountability in the property tax system. In the past runaway appraisal rates in our state have put a financial squeeze on home and business owners. With property taxes going up nearly every year, many are being forced to sell their homes, close their businesses or do without essentials to pay the taxes. We need to change the system to protect their homes, businesses and way of life.

Currently, a property owner's tax bill can go up without a vote by those entities benefiting from the increase. Elected leaders need to justify why more money is needed to run the essential services they provide – especially in a time when so many Kansans face difficult financial times. It's time we put a stop to the ever increasing property tax burden.