



March 5, 2020

Chairwoman Caryn Tyson and Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee Members

**Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB 396**

Dear Chairwoman Tyson and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 396 on behalf of the City of Leavenworth. The Countywide Sales Tax of 1% received by the City supports several crucial items in our city budget including: 15% dedicated to debt reduction, 7% to the Sidewalk Program, 15% to Economic Development, and 63% to Capital Outlay. We will receive \$2,843,398 in funding for these operations in 2020. Debt service currently committed to the Countywide Sales Tax amounts to about \$1 million per year.

Without the Countywide Sales Tax funds, the City would be forced to offset this detrimental reduction in funding with an approximate 13 mill increase to generate the same level of funding. If this increase is not achievable, the quality-of-life and other services residents depend on would be greatly diminished through decreased services. The Countywide Sales Tax funds crucial projects such as playground equipment, building repairs, historic building restoration, grants to local businesses, sports fields upkeep and improvements, sidewalks, roads and more.

As the primary retail and industrial trade center of Leavenworth County, as well as the population base and county seat, residents of the City of Leavenworth generate the majority of sales tax in Leavenworth County. Without the Countywide Sales Tax funds, the City's residents will be forced to pay much higher property taxes, or have extremely reduced services, and a lesser quality-of-life than they currently experience.

Additionally, without City projects that utilize the Countywide Sales Tax funds, the local economy will suffer as our projects primarily employ local contractors and construction companies that rely on the numerous projects planned to be completed each year.

Based on this testimony, the City of Leavenworth requests you not to pass out SB 396. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 913-680-2604 or [pkramer@firstcity.org](mailto:pkramer@firstcity.org).

Sincerely,

Paul Kramer  
City Manager  
City of Leavenworth, KS

Cc: Leavenworth City Commission