

Good morning committee members.

My name is Scott Ouradnik, I am a County Commissioner from Slope County, and I am here to show my support for this Bill.

As a Slope County Commissioner for the past 14 years, I feel it has been the Commission's responsibility to keep property taxes at the lowest level possible, while continuing to deliver the services that our constituents have come to expect.

Currently, the state and county taxes that are levied are right around 55 mills. Those categories include our general levy, water resources, health district, senior citizens, county agent, library, Veteran Services Officer, the State and finally our Road and Bridge levy.

Of the 55.05 mills levied, the Road and Bridge levy that is currently mandated by the state to receive our Gross Production Tax distribution accounts for 10 mills. As you can see, 10 mills being mandated by the state for Road and Bridge is a significant percentage of the total that we levy.

In fact, it is 18% of the total amount that Slope County levies it's citizens.

As a total levy reduction for all of Slope County, it would amount to between 5 and 8%. That's significant!

This bill provides you, our legislators, to provide immediate property tax relief at NO cost to the State. It will be a savings to the current property tax burden to tax payers in many counties.

In an era where Counties and the State are looking to reduce property taxes to it's constituents, I am here to urge you to pass this bill and help counties reduce property taxes.