

Crawford County Commissioners

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HB 337

Mr. Chairman and committee members,

I submit to you today my opposition to HB 337 which will exempt college textbooks from sales tax. While I can sympathize with college students on the ridiculous price of textbooks, we should not exempt them from sales tax.

While Crawford County does not have a college bookstore and would see little effect of this lost revenue, I will speak on behalf of our neighboring counties who do have bookstores and would see significant loss in revenue.

The erosion of our sales tax base has increased time and time again as special interest groups come before you and request their item be excluded from sales tax.

This erosion of revenue not only takes away much needed revenue from the State but also from Local Government, libraries, and transit authorities. By your own calculations this would erase as much if not more than \$27 million dollars per year. While this may not seem like a substantial amount to you divided over the entire state of 88 counties, it is to each and every public entity. Each and every dollar is needed to provide services to the public.

I understand the goal of many is to reduce taxes but I feel the reduction should be focused on Income tax and not sales tax. By simply broadening the sales tax base the elimination of income tax is possible.

This potentially lost revenues is not something that can be simply absorbed or produced another way. If revenue is eliminated, then mandated services should be eliminated proportionately.

This is revenue that is needed not only by the State but is also needed by Local Governments, Libraries and transit authorities who are also your partners in providing much needed services to the public. I ask you to vote no on HB 337. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doug Weisenauer".

Doug Weisenauer
Crawford County Commissioner