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SB 93 Sponsor Testimony
Senate Ways and Means Committee
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Chair Blessing, Vice Chair Roegner, Ranking Member Williams and members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, thank you for allowing me to give testimony on Senate Bill 93, which would require voter approval of any increase in the rate of a county sales tax.

Tax increases at all levels are unacceptable. However, if an increase is going to occur at the local level, the people should have a say in approving it. Citizens should have a voice in decisions that will affect the hard earned money coming out of their pockets. There should be no new taxes without a voice, and SB 93 seeks to correct this injustice.

SB 93 would modify the procedures for the approval or disapproval of a proposal to increase a county sales tax. The bill will require a vote of the people to approve or disapprove of a proposal to increase a county sales tax increase. The board of elections will submit the question of levying the tax or increasing the rate of tax to the electors of the county, and it will not go into effect unless it is approved by a majority of the electors voting on the question of the tax. Under current law, a board of county commissioners can unilaterally vote to raise the county sales tax. However, all local governments such as school board, townships, and cities must vote to place a levy on the ballot for a tax increase.

The bill would leave the question of tax increases up to voters, the ones who would be paying the tax, and the ones who should have a voice in the matter. Our hard working citizens deserve to have a say about how they will spend the money they earn.

Thank you for allowing me to provide sponsor testimony today on Senate Bill 93. I am happy to take any questions from the committee.