



**Statement of Opposition to LB 943
January 31, 2018**

Chairman Murante and members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee:

I am writing to express Americans for Prosperity's opposition to LB 943.

Nebraskans have been clear about the need to reform our property tax system and to provide relief to families, small business owners and retirees who struggle under the 11th highest property tax burden in the nation (*Source: The Tax Foundation*).

The issue of property taxes is pertinent to LB 943 because the property tax is not a state tax but a local one, thus any policy discussion that includes expanding the definition of allowable budget growth must include the trade-off of how to pay for it.

By expanding what constitutes allowable budget growth for local governmental units, LB 943 allows local government to increase spending beyond current budget limits set by the state.

At a time when government spending at all levels needs increased scrutiny, LB 943 loosens restrictions on local spending growth established by the Nelson Administration in 1998 (LB 989). We must have an open and honest discussion regarding trade-offs in the policy realm, and the trade-off with LB 943 is Nebraskans will get further away from property tax relief. Our organization encourages the members of this committee to vote no on LB 943.

Respectfully,
Brad Stevens
Regional Director
Americans for Prosperity