

SENATE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

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STATE OF KANSAS

Committee Assignments:

Chairman:
Interstate Cooperation
Legislative Coordinating Council
Organization, Calendar and Rules
KPERS Select
President of NCSL

Member:
Agriculture
Capitol Restoration Commission
Federal and State Affairs
Natural Resources
Pensions, Investments and Benefits
State Finance Council
CSG Executive Committee
The Energy Council Executive Committee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Senate President calls for citizen input on tax policy issues

Senator Donovan to chair tax study group

Topeka -- Senate President Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, today announced plans to form a tax study group to analyze options for reducing taxes in Kansas in order to create a more business-friendly environment. The bipartisan study group, which will meet during the 2012 Legislative Session, will be comprised of both senators and members of the public.

"One of the reasons Washington got itself into so much trouble is because they listened to special interest groups instead of the folks on Main Street," said Morris. "We're not willing to let those same mistakes be made in Kansas."

Morris has named Sen. Les Donovan, R-Wichita, longtime chair of the Senate Assessment and Taxation committee, as chair of the study group. Other senators named to the study group include Sen. Dick Kelsey, R-Goddard; Sen. Jeff Longbine, R-Emporia; and Sen. Vicki Schmidt, R-Topeka. Morris said he would also invite the Senate Minority Leader to appoint a representative to the study group.

"Right now, there are a lot of ideas being floated around, but what they all seem to be missing is citizen input," said Morris. "This isn't something that should be done behind closed doors by a bunch of bureaucrats. The study group is an opportunity to lay all those options out on the table and determine what works best for Kansas."

Morris said he expected a number of proposals to be up for consideration, including a tax plan by Sen. Kelsey; a proposal from Sen. Ty Masterson, R-Andover; and a proposal that Gov. Brownback has indicated his administration is putting together.

"We can't keep looking to government to solve our problems. This is a problem that needs to be solved through an open, transparent process," said Morris. "That's why we're going to sit down with Kansans from across the state and have a serious conversation about our tax structure. Kansans know what works in their communities and what doesn't work, and we need them at the table for this discussion."

The public members of the study group will be named once the Legislature convenes in January. Morris said the group would be charged, under Sen. Donovan's leadership, with studying the proposals and making a recommendation to the Senate Tax Committee for action.

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