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City of Omaha
Jean Stothert, Mayor

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February 24, 2017

Senator Lou Ann Linehan
State Capitol
Room 1117
P.O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509-4604

Dear Senator Linehan,

I am concerned as you are, about the increased property valuations set by the Douglas County Assessor. Even after the Assessor's February 14th announcement that she will adjust and reduce the increases to 93% of market value, many Omaha property owners will still face significant valuation increases.

On January 31st, I testified before the Douglas County Board of Equalization and repeated my commitment to lower the city's levy in 2018 by at least 2%. This will be our third reduction during my term and the first levy reductions in Omaha in more than a decade. However, the positive steps we have taken will not lessen the tax burden for many citizens due to the increasing valuations.

I have also challenged all local government subdivisions with taxing authority, to reduce their levies and provide relief to our taxpayers. If we all do this, taxpayers would see a significant tax decrease.

I am walking door-to-door on weekends and no matter what neighborhood I am in, valuation increases and high property taxes are the topics people ask about most often. At all levels of government, state and local, taxpayers want us to act; they expect us to act.

We must all advocate for the taxpayers we represent and attempt to remedy the burden.

I am encouraging citizens who feel their valuation is incorrect to use the protest process and attempt to reduce their tax bill.

Sincerely,

Jean Stothert
Mayor, City of Omaha