



Legislative Testimony In support of SB 197
Extending STAR Bond Legislation
for House Committee on Commerce
By Mitch Robinson, President

March 10, 2025

Chair Tarwater and honorable committee members,

The Kansas Economic Development Alliance, (KEDA), is a statewide organization representing more than 125 economic development professionals from all corners of the state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 197, which proposes extending the STAR Bonds program authority until 2030. KEDA supports renewing the existing STAR Bond incentive tool to entice destination-based attractions to Kansas.

The State of Kansas has shown its ability to use STAR Bonds to drive economic activity and this incentive tool has successfully helped attract new visitors to the Kansas. Projects such as the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan and the Boot Hill Museum in Dodge City are all examples of successful destination tourism attractions and are evidence that this economic development tool benefits Kansas from the east to the west.

As economic developers, KEDA is always looking for tools that can be used to bring economic growth to our communities. In today's global economy, it is critical we have incentive tools that will help Kansas stand out in a crowded competitive recruiting market. The STAR Bond program is a unique program to Kansas that has proven to be a successful tool to attract destination attractions which that brings economic activity across the state and to Kansas communities of all sizes.

On behalf of the member of KEDA, I urge you to support the renewal of the STAR Bonds program to 2028 and pass SB 197.



D. Mitch Robinson
President
Kansas Economic Development Alliance