

March 4, 2025

Dear Chairman Smith and House Taxation Committee Members,

On behalf of the De Soto Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development Council, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 51.

The bill will level the competitive playing field with other states allowing Kansas and De Soto the opportunity to recruit data centers to the region and to our community. The capital investment to our community as well as other Kansas communities that site data centers is substantial.

I'd like to talk about the economic impact of a large-scale data center though, as it will generate construction jobs in the short-term (although with the scale of these projects there is oftentimes a long buildout) and then longer-term permanent jobs. Of course, the capital investment is tremendous for expanding the local tax base and typically the tenants are great corporate citizens.

While De Soto is a small town near a metro, I believe this economic development tool could be particularly useful in other small towns throughout Kansas that could benefit from the infusion of capital for their local property tax base as well as the creation of quality jobs.

As we look at this issue locally, I think it is beneficial to De Soto in that we can continue to grow our community and still be able to meet employment needs of our current companies, while growing a new industry to our community and region.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of support for Senate Bill 51.

Respectfully,



Tim Holverson, President

De Soto Economic Development Council