

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 227 (SB 227), which proposes adjustments to the state historic rehabilitation tax credit. As a developer working on revitalizing five large historic buildings in downtown Wichita, I can attest to the significant financial challenges posed by rising costs in financing, labor, and materials. Without the enhancements outlined in SB 227, restoring these historic structures to their former glory may not be financially feasible.

SB 227 seeks to increase the state historic rehabilitation tax credit to 40% for all cities with populations under 50,000 or for applicants that are 501(c)(3) nonprofits. For cities with populations over 50,000, such as Wichita, the bill proposes maintaining the current 25% credit for expenditures between \$5,000 and \$50,000, and increasing the credit to 40% for expenditures exceeding \$50,000. A hearing for this bill is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 1:30 PM in the Senate Commerce Committee.

Many historic buildings in downtown Wichita have remained vacant for decades, deteriorating with each passing day. Without the financial incentives proposed in SB 227, these structures are unlikely to be renovated and preserved. The passage of this bill would not only facilitate the restoration of these buildings but also contribute to the economic and cultural revitalization of our city.

I urge you to support SB 227 to ensure the preservation of our state's historic architecture and to promote sustainable development in our communities.

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