

## **Written Testimony in Support of SB 51**

Honorable Members of the Kansas Senate, thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony on behalf of the Wyandotte Economic Development Council (WYEDC) in support of Senate Bill 51 (SB 51). We support the sales tax exemptions for the construction, remodeling, and equipping of qualified data centers in our state for firms that commit to a minimum investment of at least \$250 million.

A recent PwC report found that between 2017-2021, data centers added \$2.1 trillion to the U.S. Gross Domestic Product from direct, indirect, and induced effects over those five years. Wyandotte County is currently working with several proposed data center investments valued at more than \$10 billion. This sales tax exemption will assist us in winning these projects, which will provide high-wage construction jobs, data center operations, and IT services.

Data centers are the backbone of the technology sector. Where there are data centers, there is significant broadband infrastructure. SB 51 helps Kansas be more aggressive about attracting technology investments to support e-commerce, telehealth, video conferencing, government services, education, and entertainment.

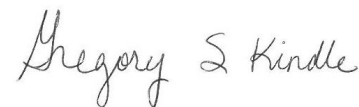
Wyandotte County is actively pursuing four data center developments that would all benefit from this sales tax exemption. These are locations where we have the infrastructure to accommodate this type of development. We have pursued data centers over the years but were unsuccessful in large part due to sales taxes on the ongoing investments made by these facilities.

Kansas' central and safe U.S. location is beneficial to attracting mega investments of this scale. Our neighbors in Nebraska, Iowa, and more recently, Missouri, have benefited from massive data center investments. Typically, these data center developments also attract additional broadband and technology investments.

Kansas has established a record of being innovative and leading successful economic development programs. We are pleased with the focus on growing the Kansas economy and for proactively developing tools to attract investments focused on the next generation of jobs.

In conclusion, SB 51 represents a critical step towards making Kansas a competitive player in the technology sector. We urge the Committee to support this legislation. If you have questions, please email me at [gkindle@wyedc.org](mailto:gkindle@wyedc.org) or by phone at 913-748-2272.

Sincerely,

  
President