



**Kansas
City
Kansas**

Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.

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House Commerce and Economic Development Committee

RE: House Bill 2561 – STAR Bond Reauthorization

The Kansas City Kansas Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc supports House Bill 2561. STAR bonds are an important economic development tool that has been used by Kansas City, Kansas to develop the Village West area. It is through this tool that KCK has become a major tourism destination for the KC region, in the state of Kansas and in the entire Midwest.

Today over 10 million visitors annually come to Kansas City, Kansas to visit Village West, which includes over 114 businesses and employs nearly 5,000 persons. Because of its success and the strong revenues generated by these businesses, the STAR bonds are projected to be completely paid off by 2017, four years ahead of the original payment schedule. Village West has sparked surrounding area development which generates sales tax for the State of Kansas, the Unified Government and area schools.

It is the use of STAR bonds that have put Kansas City, Kansas on the map for tourism. I encourage you to reauthorize STAR bonds to assure future successful tourism developments in the state of Kansas.

Bridgette Jobe, Executive Director

Come on! Get happy!