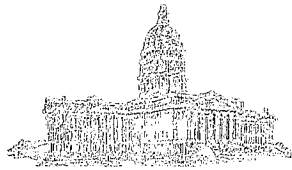


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JEFF KING
SENATOR, FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

DATE: March 18, 2013
TO: Senate Taxation Committee
FROM: Senator Jeff King
SUBJECT: SB 231 – Rural Opportunity Zone Expansion

Chairman Donovan and Members of the Senate Taxation Committee:

I write this testimony in support of SB 231, expanding the rural opportunity zone program to 22 more Kansas counties. The ROZ program has proven successful in its inception. Expanding this program to cover more Kansas counties under 16,000 in population would increase this benefit, especially in small to midsized eastern Kansas counties that have not previously enjoyed the ROZ benefits.

When you work SB 231, I would respectfully request the addition of Neosho County to the list of new ROZ-eligible counties. Neosho County is roughly equal in size to Bourbon County, which is currently included in SB 231, and shares many of the same economic and population characteristics of Bourbon and Allen counties. In addition, if SB 231 is passed in its current form, Neosho County would be surrounded by four ROZ-eligible counties on its north and west. Because Neosho County shares much in common with these counties, expansion of ROZ without its inclusion could put Neosho County at a competitive disadvantage when recruiting residents and jobs.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to answering any questions that you might have.

SN Assmnt & Tax

3/18/13

Attach't # 7