



Dale Goter
Government Relations Manager

TESTIMONY

City of Wichita
455 N Main, Wichita, KS. 67202
Wichita Phone: 316.268.4351
dgoter@wichita.gov

Kansas Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

Hearing on SB240

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Chairman Donovan and members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee:

The City of Wichita urges your careful consideration of SB240 and its potential negative impact on the state and local economy. The Wichita Chamber of Commerce joins the City of Wichita in this recommendation.

Curtailment of the Historic Tax Credit (HTC) program will result in a dramatic chilling effect on renovation and rehabilitation of various historic properties in south-central Kansas and across the state.

A notable HTC project that beautified the City of Wichita and fueled the rebirth of our downtown area was the legendary Broadview Hotel at Waco and Douglas. The current owner, Drury Southwest, worked in partnership with the City of Wichita to develop a renovation plan that revived this classic landmark and contributed to the revitalization of downtown Wichita.

Projects such as the Broadview, along with dozens of others in our community, represent the City's commitment to preserving its heritage through renovation of historic structures. These projects pay significant return to the local community and to the state as a whole. Increased property valuations, stable neighborhoods and preservation of our historic landmarks are major elements of that return on investment.

Just as the State of Kansas is struggling to deal with tough economic times, local communities are also scrambling for the resources to meet the needs of their residents. Improvements to historic structures result in higher property valuations, which generate tax revenues necessary to sustain critical local services such as public safety.

The return on investment for the public dollar spent on historic renovation is totally recovered in a 10 year span from increased property taxes alone. That return is shared by local and state governments through their respective mill levies. That computation of return on investment does not include the various multipliers that result from restoring properties to an active role in local commerce, or the many jobs created by the renovation work itself.

For those reasons, the City of Wichita strongly supports the continuation of the state's Historic Tax Credit program and the rejection of SB240.

###

SN Assmnt & Tax

4, 3, 13

Attachm't # 3