



League of Kansas Municipalities

Date: February 14, 2007
To: Senate Commerce Committee
From: Larry R. Baer
Assistant General Counsel
Re: SB 316
Testimony in Support

Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today and present testimony in support of SB 316 on behalf of the League of Kansas Municipalities and its 627 member cities.

SB 316 would divide the tax increment finance procedures and STAR bond procedures into two separate acts. This is done without substantive changes being made to either procedure. The intended result of this legislation is to clarify what statutory provisions apply to each procedure.

The League has long supported legislation to permit the use of both tax increment financing and STAR bonds on a statewide basis. We believe that the continued ability of cities to finance public-private projects with either or both remains an integral part of development and growth for cities.

The League strives to see that legislation on a subject is clear, concise and subject to application without confusion. The current TIF and STAR bond legislation has led to some confusion by cities and others trying to interpret and use it. We believe that the division of the TIF and STAR bond procedures that is proposed in SB 316 clarifies the procedures and should simplify their application. It is important that the division has occurred without any substantive changes to current law.

The League of Kansas Municipalities supports SB 316 and asks that the committee pass it out favorably.

Again, thank you for allowing me to appear before you today.