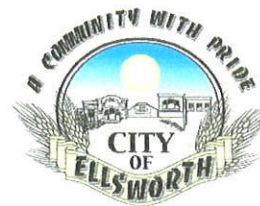


City of Ellsworth

"A Community With Pride"

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February 13, 2016

Testimony In Support to House Bill 2648
House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
Submitted By: Scott Moore, City Administrator

Mayor
John Whitmer

President of the Council
Mark Kennedy

Councilmember
Steve Magette

Councilmember
Holly Fries

Councilmember
Ryan Peschka

Councilmember
Wayne Scritchfield

City Administrator
Scott Moore

Chairman Hutton and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to address you today. My name is Scott Moore. I am the City Administrator and have served in this role over 8 years. In working with the Department of Correction officials, County Commissioners, USD 327 Administration and local business leaders, we have balanced our community priorities through Public Private Partnerships and our collective willingness to embrace change and progress seeking business friendly and sustainable outcomes.

House Bill 2648 that is being proposed will amend K.S.A. 75-5275 and K.S.A. 75-5275a that will allow Kansas Correctional Industries to build modular residential homes at the Ellsworth Correctional Facility. Back in the mid-2000s, the Department of Corrections had a partnership with Greenbush that provided vocational programs. This is a vocational program that provided inmates with viable trade skills and gave them job readiness experience that other re-entry programs were designed to accomplish.

In 2003, the leadership in Ellsworth County launched a Free Land Initiative that was designed to attract families to rural Kansas to maintain our schools and help small emerging businesses attract and retain employees. Rural communities throughout Kansas like Ellsworth face a challenge to address the affordable housing shortage dilemma that has hindered our growth, which ultimately has led to neighboring counties to decline. As a Public Administrator, I am tasked on a daily basis to provide the City Council and our community partners with solutions to problems that our organization cannot implement without a team effort locally and regionally. On behalf of the City of Ellsworth, we would encourage you to support this proposed house bill and allow the public private partner strategies that we will seek to achieve by creating economic development opportunities and sustainable programs that the Ellsworth Correctional Facility has made a difference for the State of Kansas as well as the lives of those individuals and families that have benefitted directly and indirectly from the different vocational programs offered through the Department of Corrections.

Sincerely,

Scott Moore
City Administrator