



A Place to Call Home

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City of Kechi

March 2, 2015

House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Representative Steve Brunk, Chair
Kansas State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Chairman Brunk and Members of the Committee,

The City of Kechi, the Kechi Chamber of Commerce and the Kechi Arts Council wish to express our support for HB 2368, which allows the establishment of arts and cultural districts as part of cities' overall economic development process.

The 2015-2040 Kechi Comprehensive Plan was recently adopted by the Kechi City Council. A key portion of the City's long-range vision statement includes the following excerpt . . .

... Kechi's future economic activity will be fueled by a diverse mix of goods and services and a vibrant arts and business district. — 2015-2040 Kechi Comprehensive Plan, P. 5.

A significant number of businesses in Kechi relate to, or are specifically dedicated to, the arts. Karg Art Glass and the Kechi Playhouse are likely the most notable arts businesses in Kechi. Other arts businesses include quilting, weaving, woodworking, metal sculpting and more. The City has even experienced a recent resurgence of vintage antique and craft shops.

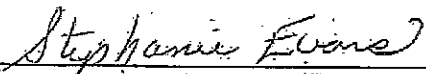
Many of these artists' shops and galleries are loosely clustered in the core area of town. The designation of an arts and cultural district would highlight the intimate, creative environment which exists in Kechi. Arts businesses in Kechi are like businesses anywhere else; but unlike national chains and corporations, the customers' dollars spent with local businesses remain in Kansas.

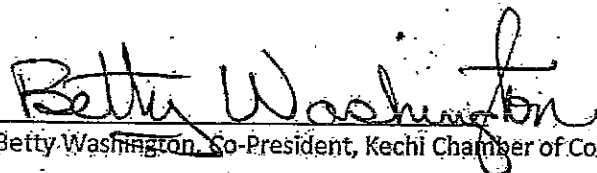
The Kechi Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan establish a blueprint for the City's future growth. The tools within HB 2368 would encourage increased tourism and attract new arts-related businesses to many cities like Kechi, thus enhancing local and state economies.

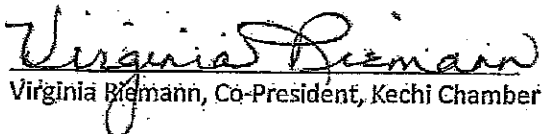
We, the undersigned, ask that the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs support and recommend HB 2368 to the Kansas House of Representatives for full consideration.

Sincerely,


Ed Parker, Mayor


Stephanie Evans, President, Kechi Arts Council


Betty Washington, Co-President, Kechi Chamber of Commerce


Virginia Riemann, Co-President, Kechi Chamber of Commerce

cc: Kechi City Council
Kechi Chamber of Commerce
Kechi Arts Council