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JEFF KING
SENATOR, FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

March 11, 2015

Chairman Kleeb, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of HB 2298. HB 2298 would remove the sunset for the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) program.

In 2011, the Kansas Legislature created Rural Opportunity Zones ("ROZ") to help attract new industry, jobs and residents to counties suffering from declining population, high poverty rates, and/or low average incomes. This successful program offers those who move to a ROZ county the opportunity to receive up to \$3,000 per year for student-loan repayment and, for those who come from outside Kansas, a five-year state income-tax exemption.

Since its creation, 77 counties have been designated as Rural Opportunity Zones. Unfortunately, the ROZ plan is scheduled to sunset on July 1, 2016. HB 2298 would abolish the sunset altogether. By passing HB 2298, the ROZ program will continue to spur rural economic growth and convince our native sons and daughters to return home to work and raise a family.

For these reasons, I would ask for your support of HB 2298.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jeff King'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Senator Jeff King
District 15