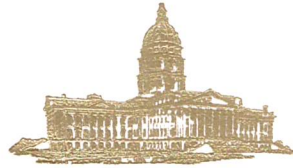


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JEFF KING
SENATOR, FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

February 17, 2015

Chairman Donovan, members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of SB 187. SB 187 would extend the sunset for the Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ) program for six years.

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. SB 187 will extend the sunset for six years, although I would support the Governor's proposal made in the House to abolish the sunset altogether if the committee is so inclined. By passing SB 187, 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 SB 187.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff King", written over a horizontal line.

Senator Jeff King
District 15