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To: House Appropriations Committee

From: Jason A. Gage, City Manager - City of Salina

Subject: HB 2184 Written Testimony - In Support

Request

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2184. As you know, this bill renews the current STAR Bond law with a few amendments. The City of Salina is very appreciative of your time to consider this written testimony and respectfully requests that you support the passage of HB 2184.

Reasons for Our Support

We believe this bill is good for Salina and other Kansas communities for the following reasons:

- Tourism in Kansas continues to grow and is a major factor supporting the state's overall economic health;
- Retaining and expanding regional tourism activities continues to become more competitive among the states within our broader region of the country;
- The use of STAR Bonds is an essential tool for Kansas' cities to enhance regional tourism and shopping opportunities, preserving and potentially expanding Kansas' regional tourism draw;
- The current law and sound leadership by the Department of Commerce provide a reasonable and prudent approach to applying STAR Bonds for regional tourism and economic development projects; and
- Salina has recently received both STAR Bond District and Project Plan approval for a project that will likely transform our downtown and community. We would not have made it this far without the current STAR Bond law.

Requested Action

This bill will continue to provide a sound framework for the review of STAR Bond projects and bond issuance. As a result, we respectfully request that you support HB 2184.

Thank you for considering our legislative request!