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Rep. Waymaster, Chairman  
Members of the House Commerce and Economic Development  
Committee  
February 17, 2017

Re: Support of HB 2284

On behalf of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce, its Board of Directors, and its members, I respectfully ask the House Appropriations Committee to renew STAR Bond legislation rather than allow this powerful economic development tool to sunset. In fact, I urge you to eliminate a sunset clause altogether so that generations to come will benefit from the economic development activity we have seen as a direct result of its use.

The success of STAR Bonds in Kansas has been stellar; this dynamic incentive has lived up to its name and exceeded expectations since we began offering the bonds. The State of Kansas and its communities have profited from the millions of dollars and thousands of jobs STAR Bonds has spawned. Those benefits are especially vital in a day when governments are still searching for new revenue sources and our citizens for jobs.

Although Olathe has not used STAR Bonds as an economic development tool, left in place, this incentive will continue to give Kansas a significant advantage in attracting development, especially as the economy continues to improve.

We ask that you vote to preserve STAR Bonds because they are a valuable economic development tool for the State of Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim McKee".

Tim McKee, CEO, Olathe Chamber of Commerce