

Russell County Economic Development and CVB
Janae Talbott, Director
331 E. Wichita, Russell, Ks 67665
Phone: 785-483-4000 / Email: rced@russellks.org

Cultivating Knowledge, Cultivating Community, Cultivating Change

PRO HB 2767

Chairmen Waymaster and Appropriations Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to discuss HB 2767. Russell County Economic Development and CVB is PRO HB 2767. Re-instatement of the enterprise program is an opportunity for the non-metro areas of Kansas to sustain and grow. The Enterprise Zone is a performance-based incentive tool that matches up with many incentives offered on the local level and can aid as a deal closing style tool for the economic development industry. Kansas is in need of growth in rural areas and in need of a “friendlier” business environment. HB 2767 is a tool that is performance based by the business and aides in expanding the tax base as the business expands in facility and/or job growth.

Investment of new job growth or facility growth expands the tax base locally and for the state. Businesses will not be able to utilize the Enterprise Zone program if they are not investing in Kansas through creating new jobs, expanding a current business facility, or building a new business facility. The Enterprise Zone program is a tool that communities used to have that did assist rural areas with business growth, specifically in the retail sector.

We do suggest a friendly amendment to the bill in the area of new job growth. The bill currently suggests the new job creation of at least 20 full time positions. In order to grow the non-metropolitan sections of Kansas, I would suggest that number be in the 5 to 10 range. Justification being that the creation of 5 to 10 new full-time jobs in Russell would be the equivalent to 15 to 20 new full-time jobs in areas such as Manhattan or Salina. This may mean that there be two different requirements of new job growth depending on the size of county the project occurs in, however, to make this program viable in the areas of the state that are in the most need of new job growth and business growth, we suggest the number of new job growth be amended.

Chairmen Waymaster and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to share with you the importance of reinstating the enterprise zone to spur new job and business growth in Kansas.