



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Sandra Rupp, Ness County Commissioner
Before the House Committee on Appropriations
In Support of House Bill No. 2767
March 21, 2018**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Lane

Logan

Meade

Morton

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Rush

Scott

Seward

Sheridan

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

Chairman Waymaster and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today in support of House Bill No. 2767. KLPG is a non-partisan, non-profit organization comprised of elected commissioners representing the collective interests of 35 rural Kansas counties.

House Bill No. 2767 seeks to reinstate the **Enterprise Zone Act** to encourage and incentivize investment and economic growth in our communities by providing a program to offer sales tax exemptions and income tax credits for persons who invest in facility expansion and/or the creation of jobs in a qualified business.

KLPG endorses this proposal which is another economic development tool that we can use to promote rural economic development and support businesses with their investment in Kansas.

In our rural communities, business growth is critical to providing valuable employment opportunities to our residents. Our rural counties strive to attract quality jobs and business opportunities to our communities. Our labor force has the desirable work ethic, just not the jobs to sustain and grow our communities.

We must do what we can to restore rural communities. If we don't try, our joint efforts to limit the out-migration of our youth will get tougher, making job creation and retention even more challenging. New and innovative incentives like the Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act add our economic development arsenal and reinstating popular programs like the Enterprise Zone can only help. The Enterprise Zone Act will be important resource for our more metropolitan areas as well. We need multiple tools that can be combined to attract growth opportunities.

It is important that we continue to monitor the performance and success of these all programs to evaluate their effectiveness and offer flexibility to react to unique growth opportunities as they emerge.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present written testimony to the Committee. I encourage you to support House Bill No. 2767.

Sandra Rupp
President

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE POLICY GROUP