



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Larry Jones, Finney County Commissioner
Before the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
In Support of House Bill No. 2168
February 6, 2017**

Member Counties

Barber

Chairman Mason and Members of the Committee:

Barton

Clark

Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPNG) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today. KLPNG is a non-partisan, non-profit organization comprised of elected commissioners representing the collective interests of 35 rural Kansas counties. We appreciate the opportunity to submit remarks in support of House Bill No. 2168.

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

House Bill No. 2168 seeks to establish the **Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act** to incentivize economic growth in our rural communities by providing access to capital to employers who expand or create jobs in rural markets and tax credits to program investors.

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

KLPNG endorses this proposal which will promote rural economic development by supporting businesses with their investment.

Kearny

Lane

In our rural communities, business growth is critical to providing valuable employment opportunities to our residents. Our rural counties are losing population and contributing to that decline is a lack of quality job opportunities for young job hunters. Our labor force has the desirable work ethic, just not the jobs to sustain and grow our communities.

Logan

Meade

Morton

Ness

We must do what we can to turn the tide and restore rural communities. If we don't our problems only worsen. Declining enrollment will continue in our school districts, out migration of our high school graduates will increase and our communities will wither, making job creation and retention even more challenging.

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Rush

The Rural Opportunity Zone Act provides employees an incentive to locate in our rural communities. House Bill No. 2168 will provide a boost to employers by facilitating investment/expansion capital for growth, a fundamental need of business.

Scott

Seward

Sheridan

Sherman

Stanton

House Bill No. 2168 may be the kick starter that we need in our economic development toolbox to make our communities thrive and succeed.

Stevens

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present written testimony to the Committee. I encourage you to support House Bill No. 2168.

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Larry Jones
President

Wichita