



HB2168: ENACTING THE AD ASTRA RURAL JOBS ACT

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

February 6, 2017

Chairman Mason and Members of the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development;

Thank you for including this testimony on behalf of the western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance (wKREDA) in support of HB2168. wKREDA is an organization comprised of community and economic development professionals representing rural communities throughout the western half of Kansas.

In representing our communities, we are all striving to create opportunities that will allow us to retain our youth and to attract new residents. The most efficient and sustainable method by which we can create these opportunities is to have private investment for businesses within our communities. Legislation such as HB2168 would be a valuable incentive to encourage such investment.

We in the wKREDA organization believe that allowing tax credits for investments in businesses in rural communities is a valuable tool. If the administrative requirements are kept to a minimum, the Ad Astra Rural Jobs Program could prove to assist many rural communities as we strive to create the environment and the opportunities that will help us sustain and grow rural Kansas.

We will be happy to provide further information as requested.

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