

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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DOUG BLEX
12TH DISTRICT

February 17, 2017

Rep. Steven Johnson
House Taxation Committee
State Capitol
Room 185 N
Topeka, KS 66612

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2341

I am writing this letter of support for Cowley County to be included in Kansas Department of Commerce Rural Opportunity Zone Program. Utilizing tax relief and student loan reimbursements has proven to be a valuable tool for local counties. Recruiting individuals back to either family roots or encourage raising a family in rural settings is no doubt a very strong incentive.

I currently live in Montgomery County which is already in the Rural Opportunity Zone. My wife is utilizing this incentive to recruit an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner to her business. The ROZ will allow a small business to be competitive recruiting a qualified applicant to a rural area. Individuals eligible to receive a student loan reduction over time will more than likely make the ROZ county their home.

Cowley County needs to be included in the ROZ Program. It certainly has needs and would benefit from the partnership with the State of Kansas.

Respectfully,

Representative Doug Blex
House District 12cc: Representative Anita Judd-Jenkins