

State of Kansas
House of Representatives

Ed Trimmer
Representative, 79th District
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-7122
ed.trimmer@house.ks.gov




Home Address
1402 E 9th
Winfield, Kansas 67156
(620) 221-7146
etrimmer@cox.net
www.edtrimmer.com

Proponent Testimony (Written Only)
Before the House Committee on Taxation
HB 2341
By State Representative
Ed Trimmer, District 79

When the rural opportunity zones were first established, Cowley County was just above the threshold for attaining that status. Because of changes to many other economic development incentives, Cowley County is now at a disadvantage on two fronts. Because of its size, Cowley is not capable of securing corporate investments of the magnitude that large metropolitan areas can draw. At the same time, it cannot take advantage of incentives that counties in the Rural Opportunity Zones (ROZ) can obtain.

Since the inception of ROZ, there have been many additional counties included in the criteria. The program is now at the point where Cowley County should qualify. The county lost a number of economic development tools when the Rural Opportunity Zones were established and rules were changed for non-qualifiers. Cowley County is asking that they be allowed to participate in a program that many other counties of the same size and economic status are now a part. It would go a long way toward helping the county, draw business, improve housing, create jobs, and ultimately draw more people to Kansas.

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