

GREAT PLAINS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Testimony before the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee on
SB 129

Chairman Tyson and members of the committee, I am Michael Johnston and I appear here today on behalf of the Great Plains Development Authority (Great Plains), the entity charged with developing what was formerly the Kansas Army Ammunition Plant near Parsons. With me today is Daniel Mann, the Great Plains CEO who would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

SB 129 would make clear that the Labette County Commission, at their discretion and under authority of Article 11, Section 13 of the state constitution, could exempt property taxes on LEASED property in the redevelopment district within the boundaries of the former Army property. Under our current understanding of the law, cities and counties can only exempt property tax on property that is OWNED by a business. Since property in the redevelopment district was previously used as a munitions facility, it is not likely that prospective business clients would want to own the property and assume any future possible liability from environmental issues.

Great Plains believes SB 129 would give the Labette County Commission an additional tool to assist Great Plains in the development of this important facility to the entire southeast Kansas region.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today in support of SB 129 and would be pleased to stand for questions!

