



KANSAS COOPERATIVE COUNCIL
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Date: February 6, 2018

To: Sen. Julia Lynn, Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee

From: Mandy Roe, Director of Member Services
Kansas Cooperative Council

RE: HB 2168- Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act

Madame Chairwoman and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2168. The Kansas Cooperative Council represents all types of cooperatively structured businesses including agriculture marketing and supply, utility, financial co-ops and consumer cooperatives. Co-ops differ from other businesses because they are member-owned and operate for the mutual benefit of members.

The Kansas Cooperative Council is a strong supporter of rural communities and the growth of those communities. The bulk of cooperatives throughout Kansas largely serve rural areas. Cooperatives depend on strong rural communities to help their businesses thrive. Without a workforce, customer base, or supporting businesses, co-ops cannot contribute to the economy. HB 2168 would authorize nonrefundable tax credits for income, premiums, or privilege taxes for taxpayers who contribute capital to an "approved investment company" to fund a "rural business concern" in a "rural area."

Not only do we believe cooperatives would qualify for the program, but we believe this proposal would provide economic opportunities to rural Kansas. The Kansas Cooperative Council believes the provisions outlined in HB 2168 would compliment the current Rural Opportunity Zone program to help increase job growth and business development in rural communities.

On behalf of the Kansas Cooperative Council, thank you again for the opportunity to share our support for HB 2168. The KCC would respectfully request, that when the committee considers HB 2168 for action, you consider it favorably.

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