



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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Testimony of the Kansas Association of Counties to the
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Proponent Testimony on HB 2529 • February 17, 2020

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer testimony in support of HB 2529, which would amend the STAR bonds program by adding rural redevelopment projects, as well as allowing for major business and medical facilities to be added to the allowed projects. The bill would also add some analysis and tracking features.

The STAR bonds program has had mixed results in its history. There have been some tremendous success stories, but also some disappointing projects. However, the STAR bonds program is a tremendous tool for Kansas to utilize to partner to bring in development projects.

KAC supports adding the visitor tracking plan requirement so that the legislature, as well as local government, can actually see the people that are being attracted by the project. Seeing these return on investment benchmarks tracked can help improve project selection, as well as the overall program.

KAC also supports adding a rural component to the STAR bond program. KAC wants to see all areas of Kansas grow. Adding this component gives rural areas an opportunity to take advantage of this tool as well. KAC would, however, encourage the committee to look at the definition of rural, as the MSA/Non-MSA distinction may unintentionally sweep areas that are not truly “urban” into the “urban” category.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jay Hall
Kansas Association of Counties

