



Date: February 14, 2020  
To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
From: Troy Unruh, Mayor  
Re: HB 2529 – Written Support Testimony

Thank you, Chairman and Committee, for allowing me to submit testimony on HB 2529. The City of Garden City is in support of this legislation because we believe that that STAR Bonds are valuable tool for our development.

Phase 1 of the Sports of the World Complex will use \$25.4 million in STAR Bond funds to create a \$41+ million multi-sport indoor complex, private jump park, restaurant and outdoor sports and entertainment space. This attraction will intensify the multi-state regional draw to the community and it's very successful and expanding retail development within the STAR Bond district. This specific project, and much of the other private retail investment, would not have occurred without the State of Kansas STAR Bond incentive. The State partnering in this creative and aggressive way not only kept Southwest Kansas retail and entertainment dollars from escaping to the Colorado front range and Oklahoma & Texas panhandles, it brought retail and entertainment dollars into the State from those areas and beyond. Upon construction and opening of the Sports of the World facility, the community's pull factor which has grown from 1.01 to over 1.4 will grow even more.

Furthermore, we support HB 2529 for the following additional reasons:

- The reauthorization of STAR Bonds allow developers to focus on "big ticket" attractions that otherwise wouldn't be feasible which generates more sales tax that is used to maintain municipal and state infrastructure.
- The state sales tax revenue generated through the new development would not be realized without the issuance of the STAR Bonds.
- HB 2529 is a tool that will help the region recruit new businesses and professionals that would otherwise choose to live elsewhere.

For these reasons, and on behalf of the City of Garden City, I ask that the Committee to pass HB 2529 out of Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Troy Unruh, Mayor

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