

February 14, 2019

To: Chairman Hineman

From: Joann Knight, Executive Director, Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2131 (Spur Kansas Growth Act)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in favor of HB 2131. This bill partially reinstates the old Enterprise Zone program which over the years has tremendously helped rural Kansas communities' complete economic development projects.

In my 28 years of working for the Dodge City/Ford County Development Corporation, the Enterprise Zone program was one that we utilized more than any other that was available. The sales tax exemption portion of the program was the most beneficial in assisting our businesses to make the commitment to expand and/or locate in our communities.

With the deletion of the program, our businesses had to go through extensive processes of utilizing IRB's or workforce training programs that they didn't necessarily need. It also eliminated assistance to our smaller communities for retail development. Reinstating the sales tax exemption of the Enterprise Zone program will help to stimulate investment in our rural communities by helping exempt the sales tax on construction that adds to the original cost of the project. This one-time assistance will help the State accomplish economic growth. Completion of the projects add jobs, investment and retail sales to the State of Kansas and create a long-term positive impact to the State.

Please consider approving HB 2131 for the betterment of rural Kansas. If you have any questions, I will be available to contact at your request.

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