

State of Kansas
Senate

State Capitol, 224-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612
(785) 296-7370
richard.hilderbrand@senate.ks.gov



10337 SE 107th Terr
Galena, Kansas 66739
(417) 529-3262

Richard Hilderbrand
Senator, 13th District

February 22, 2019

Testimony in Support of HB 2112 – Adding Crawford and Dickinson counties to the list of eligible rural opportunity zone counties.

House Committee on Rural Revitalization

Honorable Chair – Don Hineman

Vice Chair – Adam Smith

Ranking Minority – Jason Probst

Honorable Committee Members

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and esteemed members of the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 2115 today.

In the early 1900's the mining industry was booming, and because of this, by 1920 Crawford County saw their population swell to almost 62,000. Today roughly 39,000 Kansans call Crawford County their home. In the last several years Crawford County has seen a resurgence in business opportunities for our state. With the unemployment rate being at historical lows, incoming migration has become ever so important for our state. The State of Oklahoma is roughly 23 miles from Crawford County, while Missouri shares their border with Crawford County. By adding Crawford County to the list of counties eligible for the rural opportunity zone, we will give them a much-needed tool to attract people to relocate to Kansas instead of one of our neighboring states.

I have attached a copy of the ROZ map showing that Crawford County is currently the only county in Southeast Kansas that is not on the list of eligible counties.

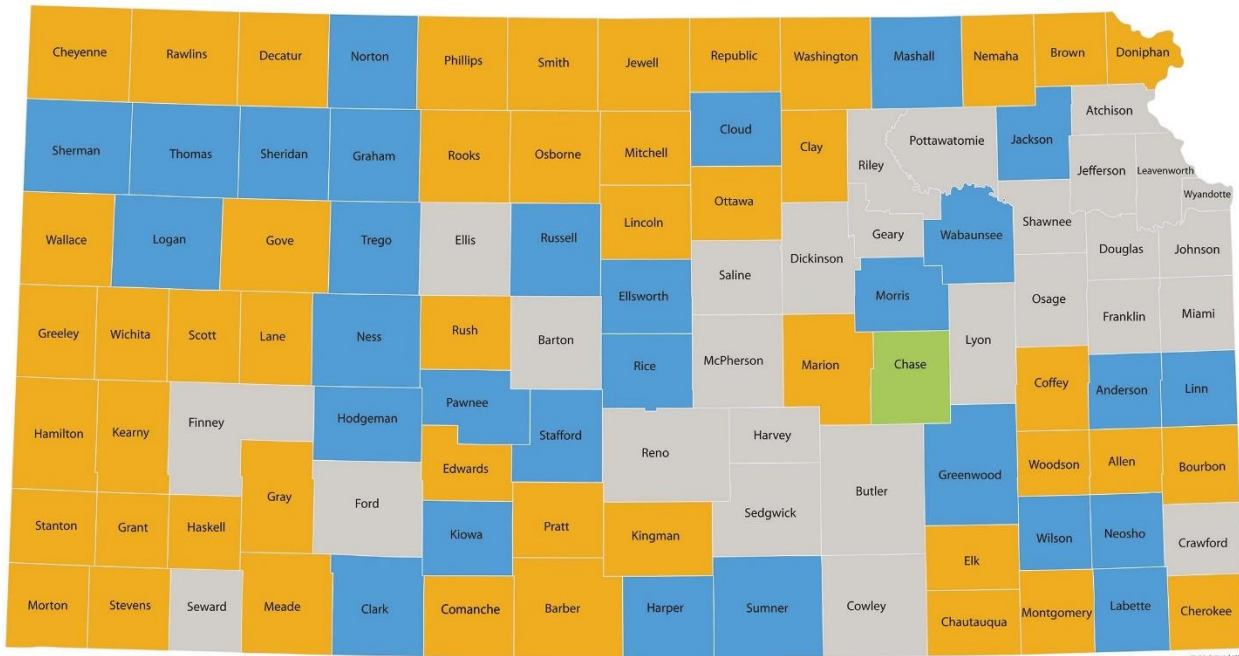
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I urge you to pass HB 2112 out favorably from this committee, so that Crawford County Kansas has an opportunity to use this very important tool in the rural revitalization tool box.

Thank you, Chairman Hineman, and Committee for your time and consideration it was an honor to speak before you!

Thank you,
Senator Richard Hilderbrand
District 13