

Arma Economic Development
“Working together, to make a Difference”

*506 N. First St.
Arma, KS 66762
620-249-8617*

February 21, 2019

Dear Representative Collins and Esteemed Members of the Rural Revitalization Committee:

First, I would like to thank you for providing this forum and exploring the possibilities of designating Crawford County as a Rural Opportunity Zone. I represent a small group of individuals that are working for the economic growth of our small community in southeast Kansas.

Arma is comprised of 1,414 community members, several small businesses, and USD 246. We are geographically located 6 miles north of Pittsburg and 120 miles south of Johnson County. Arma is fortunate to also be located adjacent to Highway 69 and are excited that this section of highway will soon be a four-lane expressway, essentially bring Johnson County citizens closer.

I am writing this letter today as a plea for the Rural Opportunity Zone designation, as Arma is in a unique, albeit advantageous situation, as she has been designated as a Federal Opportunity Zone. This designation provides funding incentives for new or current businesses to locate or expand within this area. This enables Arma to be a fertile area for great economic growth. We lack one piece to this puzzle, people. People to create and sustain those businesses. People to increase our population, per capita incomes, and new building.

Currently 60% of the citizens of Arma earn less than \$50,000 per year. The median household income is \$36,458, while the per capita income is \$25,125. The poverty rate is 22.8%. According to the 2013 American Community Survey the average college graduate will spend \$278,000 on local goods and services over their lifetime, this does not include the \$44,000 they will spend on state and local taxes. Can you imagine the impact this will have on southeast Kansas!

We need to be able to provide incentives for college graduates to relocate in our area to provide diversity and economic growth. We need this to ensure that our community continues to prosper and grow. We appreciate your consideration in this opportunity.

Warmest Regards,



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