

To: Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

From: Robert Uhler, City of Fort Scott. Contact Info. Email: ruhler@fscity.org Phone: 913-244-4138

Date: February 19, 2019

RE: Legislative Testimony: PRO on SB 125

I want to thank Madam Chairperson Tyson and the Committee members for allowing the City of Fort Scott the opportunity to provide positive testimony on SB 125, Extending the ending date on Rural Opportunity Zones.

We all know the positive attributes of the Rural Opportunity Zones Program (ROZ) brings to rural Kansas, there is no argument against that. It is well proven program that it has grown the economic vitality of rural Kansas for years. It is an Economic Development issue, and a very important one for us that choose to live in Rural Kansas. It addresses the economic Development needs as it allows for the ROZ to be extended in the communities that qualify and wish to participate. The ROZ program is an incentive that was and is successfully being used to grow the Kansas economy. In Bourbon county we offer a tremendous amount of opportunities for the new college graduate to relocate in and start their professional career. This is one tool we can use to help bring them here.

By extending this program you are giving us a helping hand to continue, on the successful path we have been on for several years. It's a pertinent time for Southeast Kansas to sustain and grow, SB 125 would be an asset to that process. Long term benefits and side effects to business, population, and community growth is well documented.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 125 and the opportunity to provide our support of this bill.