

State of Kansas
Senate

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Richard Hilderbrand
Senator, 13th District

February 18, 2019

Testimony in Support of SB 135 – Adding certain counties to the list of eligible rural opportunity zone counties.

Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Honorable Chair – Caryn Tyson

Vice Chair – Dan Kerschen

Ranking Minority – Tom Holland

Honorable Committee Members

Thank you, Madam Chair and esteemed members of the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 135 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.

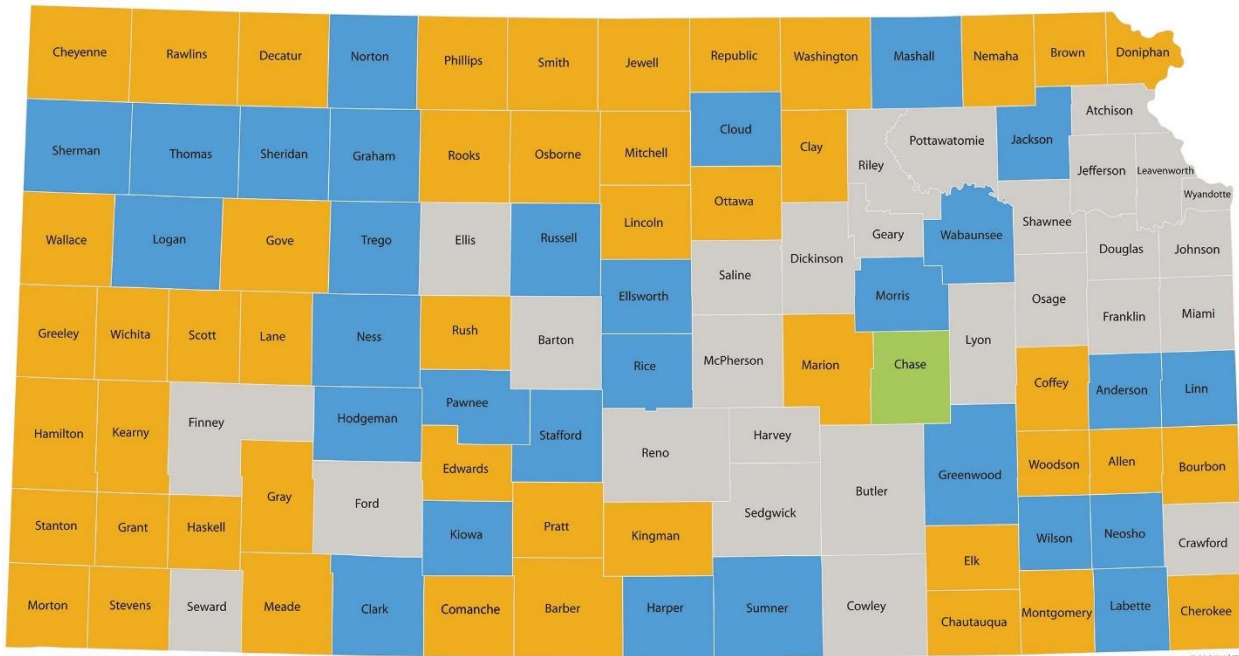
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I urge you to pass SB 135 out favorably from this committee, so that Crawford County Kansas has an opportunity to use this very important tool in the rural revitalization tool box.

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

Thank you,
Senator Richard Hilderbrand
District 13