Dear Members of the House Financial Institutions and Rural Development Committee,

On behalf of the Downtown Wichita organization, it is my pleasure to provide our support for House Bill 2569. Downtown Wichita serves as the economic development organization for the urban core in Wichita. Improvements to the Historic Tax Credit Program are imperative to the revitalization efforts underway in both large and small communities across Kansas. Often, these historic structures are key anchors to both small town main streets and major urban areas. But for this program, many of these historic structures would not see reinvestment, as they are often more expensive to rehabilitate and repurpose than new construction. The diversity of historic buildings is important to our sense of place and they play an important role in development and increased economic value for our community.

In Wichita, specifically, the Kansas Historic Tax Credit Program has played a vital role in our downtown's revitalization. With this program, important neighborhoods like Old Town, Delano, the Douglas Design District, and many of our historic high-rise office buildings have been converted to multi-family residential or mixed-use offerings in the past decade. Each of these projects have played an important role in Wichita's downtown revitalization success story. Since 2010, we have seen **over $1.5 Billion in direct investment** in the core of our city, with many of these projects taking advantage of the historic tax credit program available to them. But for this program, much of this investment would not have occurred.

I am pleased that this committee and our legislative leadership are considering further enhancement/expansion of this important development tool and we would encourage our State's leadership to support this important policy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,
Jason Gregory

JASON GREGORY
Executive Vice President
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