OLATHE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ONE VISION. ONE VOICE.

Sen. Rob Olson, Chair
Members of the Senate Commerce Committee
February 9, 2021
Re: Support of SB 124, STAR Bonds Renewal

On behalf of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce, its Board of Directors, and its members, I respectfully ask the Senate Commerce Committee to support SB 124 and renew STAR Bond legislation rather than allow this economic development tool sunset.

The success of STAR Bonds in Kansas has been an impactful economic development tool for communities of all sizes throughout Kansas. Although Olathe has not used STAR Bonds as an economic development tool this incentive will continue to give Kansas a significant advantage in attracting development and creating destination tourism sites that in turn will bring visitors to our state and create entertainment opportunities that will help retain our workforce talent in Kansas.

Kansas communities, large and small, throughout Kansas have benefited from the STAR Bonds program by developing new attractions which draw tourists to their communities. By adding major business facilities into the definition of eligible areas this tool will only be a more innovative tool in the tool box for the Olathe community to expand and attract new business development. Ultimately expanding STAR Bonds will bring jobs and growth to Olathe and the state of Kansas.

Finally, our members are supporting of making the STAR Bonds a permanent tool and avoid the need to renew it on a regular basis. By doing so, Kansas will be providing businesses the stability they need to thrive in our state and ultimately attract more projects and investment to Kansas.

The State of Kansas and its communities have profited from the STAR Bonds program that generates new jobs and new revenue. We ask that you vote to preserve STAR Bonds by supporting SB 124 and enhancing and retaining a valuable economic development tool for the State of Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of this bill.

Respectfully,

Tim McKee, CEO, Olathe Chamber of Commerce

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