



February 9, 2021

TO: Senate Committee on Commerce
FROM: Daniel Yoza, Assistant City Attorney, City of Olathe
SUBJECT: Written Testimony in Support of SB 124

Growing the Kansas economy, creating jobs, and drawing visitors to our state is an important foundation for our state's future. Tools such as STAR Bonds are fundamental to our success and competitiveness. While the City of Olathe does not have a STAR Bond project, the possibility of using this tool allows us to begin discussions on major projects that can have a long-term impact on the state.

We are supportive of SB 124 and extending the STAR Bond program. We would also be in favor of making the program permanent. By doing so, businesses will be provided the stability they desire and will draw more projects and investment to Kansas.

We are also supportive of adding major business facilities into the definition of eligible areas. We are proud of the businesses that have chosen Olathe for their business headquarters and believe that this provision will give us an additional tool to both attract and retain innovative companies that will bring jobs and growth to our City and State.

STAR Bonds are a powerful tool that, when used judiciously and responsibly, have a profound economic impact to Kansas communities. The City of Olathe respectfully request you pass SB 124 favorably out of your committee so we can retain this successful incentive program.