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SENATE CHAMBER

MARK STEFFEN, M.D.
SENATOR 34TH DISTRICT
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January 23rd, 2023

Esteemed Senators,

Please consider these facts in support of SB 7:

- 1) Rural Kansas has been in economic decline for decades. This is best exemplified by declining populations.
- 2) Rural Kansas provides critical and irreplaceable services to all Kansans (agriculture, energy, etc.).
- 3) Costs of goods and access to goods are more expensive in rural areas.
- 4) State resources and economic expenditures are unequally distributed in favor of the metropolitan areas.
- 5) DOT expenditures towards infrastructure maintenance and development are weighted dramatically away from rural counties.
- 6) It is in the state's best interest to refocus on the economic health of our rural counties.
- 7) Rather than expect benefit from minimally used commerce projects that frequently prove off point and riddled with bureaucracy, this bill leaves taxpayer money in their own pockets. Thus, stemming the tide of high local costs while allowing for entrepreneurial business development via cash on hand.
- 8) It is study proven that states with low to no income tax and small government have the most prosperous economies. Common sense dictates this can work at the county level as well.
- 9) Overall, SB 7 levels the net taxation for rural taxpayers and opens the door for economic improvement and repopulation.

Thank you,

Senator Mark B. Steffen, M.D.