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SB 446

Written only

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Cross Border Network, President

Chairman Thompson and Members of the Committee. I would appreciate it very much if you consider the following points about SB 446. My name is Judy Ancel and am the President of The Cross Border Network which advocates for a both the safe passage of immigrants and the right to stay home. I vote in Wyandotte County. Many of our members vote in Johnson County.

We strongly oppose SB 446. Indeed it betrays our own history and culture as Americans built by enterprising newcomers. I think of the homesteaders who made Kansas the economic powerhouse in agriculture and ranching that it is today. Many of them were foreign nationals who eventually became citizens and raised families of Kansans. Their success became a model of the American Dream

There are some today who say that the American Dream is no longer possible to achieve. The authors of this bill would perhaps agree with that since this bill would cut off one of the primary routes to achieve it through farming and entrepreneurialism. I think of people who buy a franchise for a service or restaurant and grow their businesses. I think of people who buy up deteriorating houses, remodel and sell them thus improving our communities while raising their standard of living. How about the resident of a small town with declining population who wants to grow a business or farm and keep the community alive? We know that in many states, it's immigrants, many of whom are not citizens, who have helped reclaim dying rural areas.

Another fear I have from this and other similar bills around the country is of retaliation against American investors in other countries. Will they retaliate with laws prohibiting Americans from investing?

My organization believes that we all do better when we have the opportunity to follow our dreams. We believe that America is a place where people come to do that, but this bill, if enacted would block opportunity, shatter dreams, waste human creativity and potential.

For all these reasons I ask you to reject SB 446 in the Federal and State Committee or in any other forum of the Kansas legislature.