

Angela Urbina
Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Written Opponent Testimony of SB446
For the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

February 7th, 2024

Chair Thompson and members of the Committee,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide testimony today. My name is Angela Urbina, and I serve as a board member of the Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (WHCC). WHCC is a volunteer membership-driven organization comprised of individuals, small business owners, corporate representatives, and associates representing various non-profit organizations. We are dedicated to the creation, advancement, promotion, and development of economic opportunities within the Hispanic market and business community. The mission of the WHCC is to provide leadership, which promotes economic growth, and professional development. With respect to economic prosperity and free enterprise, the Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce opposes SB446.

While we understand the state interest in national security, laws like SB446 that restrict the right of private property, which would also limit free enterprise, need to be narrowly tailored in order to reduce the potential for abuse of this regulation and discrimination. As this bill is currently written, there is simply too much left to interpretation to ensure that this law wouldn't inevitably be used in a way that would restrict hard working Hispanic people from realizing the American dream through things like small business ownership and the ability to raise their families in a home of their choosing.

Many Hispanic and Latino Kansans work hard to achieve that dream while they are going through the legal citizenship process. Small businesses, whether that be manufacturing to farming to telecommunications and more, may require more than 3 acres of land for their operations. They would be subject to undefined standards of getting permission through the state land council, facing additional and currently unknown bureaucratic hurdles that restrict their ability to support the Kansas economy through the success of their growing business. If that business owner is successful, they should be able to celebrate that success by moving their family to a home of their choosing, not to be restricted by less than 3 acres of land without government permission.

It is not in the best interest of our state to subject hard working people to additional government regulations without a clearly defined and strong reason for doing so. As it is currently written, we encourage the committee to oppose SB446 and attempt to resolve any security concerns this bill aims to resolve with a new bill that is more clearly defined and narrowly tailored to avoid unintended consequences that may arise. Thank you all for your time and I hope you take my testimony into consideration.