



Board of Commissioners

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Thank you Madam Chair and committee for the opportunity to present before you today. I am Tom Burroughs Commissioner at Large District 2 for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS. I am here to add my voice and support for the proposed STAR Bond Policy presented today.

Since the inception of STAR Bonds, Kansas has recruited, developed and retained multiple projects throughout our great state. STAR Bonds provides Kansas the opportunity to offer an incentive that I, and many believe, is one of the best economic development tools the legislature has implemented.

As many may remember, the Kansas Motor Speedway was the first economic development project to utilize STAR Bonds. Much like the discussion and concerns expressed then, the financial investment by state and local revenues was of much concern. However, I submit, we must not lose sight of the private investment required; investment and development that possibly would have never occurred.

I can speak firsthand of the success of STAR Bonds projects. As a lifelong "Dotte" our community struggled economically. Today, we are a destination location for numerous reasons; sports, amusement, concerts, shopping, dining, racing, and soon to be home of the new American Royal. All made possible through STAR Bonds.

Wyandotte County has succeeded in its utilization of STAR Bonds. The ancillary development that accompanies a major project generates local growth and revenue. The growth in new sales tax succeeded in paying off the initial development years earlier than proposed.

The proposed bill before you today is drafted to meet the need for Kansas to be serious in encouraging major sports franchises to locate in Kansas. We must not let this opportunity slip through our fingers. It is no secret the Chiefs and the Royals may relocate.

Wyandotte County would not only welcome but encourage the opportunity to keep the "Kansas City" in the Chiefs and Royals. We have available land, historical success with STAR Bonds and the willingness to partner with the leadership of these iconic sports franchises. Again, I encourage the body to move forward with this proposal.

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