



Members of the Senate and House Commerce Committee  
Written only Testimony in Support of SB 498  
June 17, 2024

On behalf of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce, its Board of Directors, and its members, I respectfully ask the legislature to support the proposal authorizing STAR Bonds to be used for the development of a professional stadium or arena.

The success of STAR Bonds in Kansas has been an impactful economic development tool for communities of all sizes throughout Kansas. Although Olathe has not used STAR Bonds as an economic development tool this incentive will continue to give Kansas a significant advantage in attracting development and creating destination tourism sites that in turn will bring visitors to our state and create entertainment opportunities that will help retain our workforce talent in Kansas.

Authorizing STAR Bonds to be used in Kansas to build a new sports complex for the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals will not only benefit the city where it is built but will benefit the entire state. Economic impact data shows that in the KC Metro area, the Kansas City Chiefs annually have almost a \$1 billion impact. Keeping the Chiefs and Royals in the Kansas City metro should be a priority for Kansas because if either team leaves the area the impact will be felt statewide. Sporting events draw visitors from around the world who explore the area boosting hotel nights, fuel consumption and retail sales in Kansas all which generate tax dollars. Even today with the teams based in Missouri, our Olathe community benefits. Having either team physically located in Kansas will grow these existing benefits exponentially.

The State of Kansas and its communities have profited from the STAR Bonds program through its generation of new jobs, revenue, and visitors. On behalf of the Olathe Chamber and our members I urge you to support authorizing STAR Bonds to be used in the attraction professional sports teams. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments in support of the initiative.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim McKee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tim" and last name "McKee" clearly distinguishable.

Tim McKee, CEO, Olathe Chamber of Commerce