



June 17, 2024

**Testimony in Support of the Stadium STAR Bonds proposal
Joint meeting of Senate and House Commerce Committees
Ann Smith-Tate, President & CEO, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director, Shawnee Economic Development Council**

Chairs Erickson and Tarwater and Honorable Members of the Senate and House Commerce Committees,

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to share my professional opinion on the proposal to use STAR Bonds to attract professional sports teams to Kansas. As the President & CEO of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce and as the Executive Director of the Shawnee Economic Development Council, I would like to express my strong support for this proposal.

The intended purpose of STAR Bonds is for the development of destination attractions and using them to build a professional sports team stadium fits this intention exactly. This unique tool allows Kansas to put together an incentive package to attract professional sports franchise teams without the investment of existing Kansas tax dollars. The use of STAR Bonds is a proven effective tool for financing major destination attractions, best proven by the success of the Kansas Speedway.

As a community located in the KC Metro area, our Shawnee chamber members know first-hand the economic impact these teams have in our region. Our hotels, restaurants and shops benefit from game days even though they may not be playing in Kansas. These well-established franchises compete in prominent leagues that attract visitors from all over the world to watch them play and, if they are to relocate somewhere outside of the KC metro area, our community will experience economic losses that will be difficult to overcome.

On behalf of the Shawnee Chamber, I strongly encourage you to support the use of STAR Bonds to attract and incentive the Kansas City Chiefs and/or Kansas City Royals to come to Kansas. Attracting one of these teams, if not both, a rare opportunity, that if accomplished, will greatly benefit Kansas generations to come.

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