



## County Administrator's Office

David W. Johnston, County Administrator


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### WRITTEN TESTIMONY

June 17, 2024

**TO:** Chairwoman Renee Erickson, Chairman Sean Tarwater, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

**FROM:** David Johnston, County Administrator 

**RE:** STAR Bond Legislation

To All Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development:

On behalf of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas (UG), I appreciate your consideration of this legislation that would expand the use of STAR bonds for the construction of stadiums for professional sports teams looking to relocate to Kansas. In recent weeks there has been a good deal of media attention regarding interest from the Chiefs and Royals in exploring opportunities to relocate to our great state. We greatly welcome that interest and particularly appreciate the State's leadership in creating a valuable tool that may lead to the possibility that one or both teams may decide to make Kansas their new home.

Clearly there are a lot of pieces that would need to fall into place for the teams to relocate to Kansas. However, the possibility is an exciting one for Wyandotte County. We are already home to Sporting KC, Kansas Speedway and the Kansas City Monarchs. Wyandotte County offers many amenities that are no doubt of interest to the Chiefs and Royals. If this were to materialize, the economic benefits to Wyandotte County could be significant. Therefore, as you consider this legislation, I ask that you protect the local government's role in this process, as well as the interests of the taxpaying citizens and businesses within Wyandotte County.

STAR bond projects have brought notable benefits to Wyandotte County. Because of this, the UG sees this legislation as a tremendous opportunity for our county to become the home of another, or possibly two other, professional sports franchises that could pay great dividends for our community and for our great State of Kansas. I ask for your favorable consideration of this legislation and look forward to an opportunity to partner with the teams and with the State of Kansas to make the goal of this legislation a reality. Thank you.