



JOINT COMMITTEE – HOUSE & SENATE COMMERCE
MONDAY, JUNE 16
PROPONENT TESTIMONY STAR BOND PROJECT

We, the Chambers of Commerce of Emporia, Lawrence, Manhattan and Topeka, are pleased to provide this written testimony in support of the Professional Sports Franchise STAR Bond.

Our regional coalition, known as METL, comprises nearly 3,000 member business and organizations, represented by 30 members of Congress and the United States Senate. Our motto, *Stronger Together*, reflects our work side-by-side with state officials and elected representatives to maintain fiscal responsibility while helping lead economic recovery in our communities and throughout the state.

The economic impact of relocation of the Kansas City Chiefs and Royals to our state would be profound. A move by the KC Chiefs would result in an estimated \$993.2 million total economic impact; \$28.8 million total annual tax revenue; and 5,860 total annual jobs. Estimates for a move by the Kansas City Royals are similarly strong, at \$1.2 billion economic output; \$79 million in new tax revenue; and 5,400 jobs.

Our communities of Emporia, Lawrence, Manhattan and Topeka, reflect vibrant, diverse cities with highly educated workforces in which to live, work, and play. Our communities' longstanding ties to athletics through historic programs including those of Washburn University, the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, Emporia State University, Haskell Indian Nations University, and our local high schools, illustrate our passionate interest in sports, fitness, and community.

Please consider the positive impact of STAR Bond funding to help neighboring communities such as ours.

Respectfully submitted by:

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President, SVP Government Affairs
Greater Topeka Chamber

METL Leadership

Jeannie McKenna, President & CEO
Emporia Area Chamber of Commerce

Jason Smith, President & CEO
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