



**To:** Chairman Sen. Renee Erickson and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee  
**From:** City Manager, Nickolaus J. Hernandez, and the City of Dodge City Commission  
**Date:** March 12, 2024  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB 2387

Chairman Sen. Renee Erickson and Members of the Senator Commerce Committee, thank you for consideration of our testimony on behalf of the City of Dodge City in strong support of House Bill No. 2387.

This bill is critical to STAR bonds as it provides essential state revenue to replace lost sales tax proceeds attributable to reductions in the state sales tax rate on food. Another added benefit is that it expands eligible uses of STAR bonds to historic theaters and major amusement parks, as well as extends the deadline for the submission of the annual STAR bonds report. In addition, it increases the amount of project costs that may be financed in certain rural redevelopment projects without the issuance of special obligation bonds.

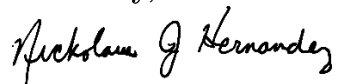
Dodge City has seen the benefits with our STAR Bonds project that expanded the world-class Boot Hill Museum, one of the premiere attractions in Kansas. While the other portion of our STAR Bonds project, the Downtown Streetscape is well underway and will have a substantial impact on the historic core of our community. Both projects are crucial drivers of tourism not just for the region but the entire state, welcoming visitors from around the globe while improving quality of life for residents.

HB 2387 is essential in ensuring that STAR Bond projects like ours move forward. If this funding is not available throughout the state, there will be detrimental impact on taxpayers, and these game changing projects simply will not happen. Plus, increasing the financing limit for pay-as-you go funding for rural development projects will be a tremendous benefit to projects in Dodge City and throughout the state.

In addition, Dodge City sees an opportunity to preserve Kansas historical theaters, a viable component of our history. Dodge City has two such theaters that would benefit significantly, including the Dodge Theater, home of the *Dodge City* movie premiere, the first movie premiere to occur outside of Hollywood and the Beeson Theater, one of Dodge City's first live performance theaters. Both theaters welcomed some of the most famous actors in show business including Errol Flynn, Olivia De Haviland and Marlon Brandon. Theaters like this are a national treasure and need to be preserved or our history will be lost.

It is for all the reasons above that the City of Dodge City strongly urges you to support HB 2387. Your consideration of our testimony and your support of HB 2387 is greatly appreciated it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nickolaus J. Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N".

Nickolaus J. Hernandez  
City Manager