Joint House & Senate Committee on Commerce
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2793- Establishing the Kansas Sports Facilities Authority Act
Presented by Eric Stafford, President & CEO, Kansas Chamber

Tuesday, March 10, 2026

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, President & CEO for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2793, which establishes the Kansas Sports Facilities Authority Act.

December 22, 2025, was an exciting day for the State of Kansas with the announcement that the Kansas City Chiefs were moving across state lines from Missouri. This has been a multi-step effort from the legislature passing new STAR bonds authorizing legislation, to working with local governments to determine sites for the new headquarters, practice facility and stadium.

Another essential step for making this significant investment a reality is the establishment of the Kansas Sports Facilities Authority Act to oversee an NFL stadium in Kansas. HB 2793 establishes the long-term oversight and protection for the state and taxpayers. This legislation is tailored specific to Kansas, using proven definitions and structures, allows for the construction and operation of the stadium, from utilities and infrastructure to insurance.

We are now two years into the process of making a dream reality to bring the Chiefs to Kansas. HB 2793 is the next step in that direction. Our board chose to support the initial STAR bonds proposal, because the threat of losing our team to places like Salt Lake or San Antonio were real and our board wanted to make sure our team did not leave the region.

But I would ask that this committee not lose sight over one of the biggest benefits behind the passage of the NFL STAR bonds legislation- the positive economic impact to the state. The Department of Commerce Economic Impact Study shows a $4.3 billion impact just from the construction of the new stadium, headquarters, and mixed-use development. This does not include the ongoing benefit once the stadium is operational and ready for season play, concerts, visitors, etc.

In closing, House Bill 2793 is another step to the incredible opportunity we have before us. The economic benefit to the Kansas potentially hosting a Super Bowl, Final Four, top-tier concerts and other major events will be significant. We respectfully ask for your support in keeping this opportunity alive and I am happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.