STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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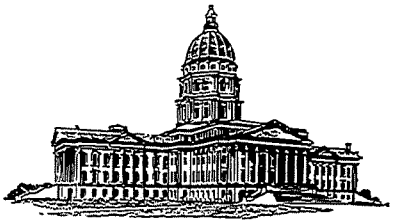

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MELISSA OROPEZA DNP, APRN-BC, CGRN
37TH DISTRICT

March 11, 2026

The Honorable Ty Masterson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Dan Hawkins, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Dinah Sykes, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Brandon Woodard, House Minority Leader
Kansas Legislature
State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas

RE: Governance Structure of House Bill 2793 – Kansas Sports Facilities Authority

Dear President Masterson, Speaker Hawkins, Leader Sykes and Leader Woodard,

As members of the Wyandotte County legislative delegation, we write to express our support for House Bill 2793 and the effort to establish the Kansas Sports Facilities Authority to facilitate the development, financing, and management of major professional sports facilities in Kansas.

The creation of a statewide authority capable of delivering projects of this magnitude represents an important step in strengthening Kansas's competitiveness for major league sports and related economic development opportunities.

As the Legislature considers House Bill 2793, we respectfully request that the governing structure of the proposed Kansas Sports Facilities Authority include meaningful representation from the host community where such facilities will be located.

Specifically, we recommend that the Mayor/Chief Executive of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas be designated as a voting member of the Kansas Sports Facilities Authority.

Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas are expected to serve as the host jurisdiction for the proposed stadium and related development. The Unified Government will therefore play a central role in coordinating infrastructure, transportation access, land use

approvals, public safety services, and surrounding economic development associated with the project. Ensuring that the chief elected executive of the host jurisdiction has a voting role on the Authority will strengthen coordination between state and local government and help ensure the long-term success of the project.

Additionally, we respectfully request the removal of any language in House Bill 2793 that would prohibit the Mayor of the Unified Government from serving on the Authority or related committees.

Wyandotte County has a long and successful history of partnership with the State of Kansas on major sports and tourism investments, including Kansas Speedway, Children's Mercy Park, and the Village West tourism district. Ensuring that the host community has a voting seat on the governing authority will reinforce this partnership and strengthen the transparency and accountability of this important statewide investment.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Wyandotte County Legislative Delegation
Kansas House of Representatives
Kansas Senate

Sen. Beverly Gossage **Sen. David Haley** **Sen. Jeff Klemp**

Sen. Pat Pettey **Rep. Louis Ruiz** **Rep. Lynn Melton**

#31 #36

Rep. Melissa Oropeza **Rep. Pam Curtis** **Rep. Tim Johnson**

#37 Declined

Rep. Valdenia Winn **Rep. Caroline Caiharr** **Rep. Wanda Brownlee Paige**

Absent Declined