



Rick Walker
Mayor

February 13, 2024

Mike Brungardt, P.E.
City Administrator

Subject: Opposition to SB 468 - Limiting Economic Development in De Soto

Brandon Mills, MPA
*City Clerk/
Assistant City
Administrator*

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

Patrick G. Reavey
City Attorney

I am writing to you today as the Mayor of De Soto, Kansas, to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill 468. This bill, if passed, would significantly hinder our community's ability to attract new businesses and investments, jeopardizing our economic growth and future prosperity.

Joe Johnson, PE
City Engineer

As you know, De Soto has a proven track record of success in utilizing economic incentives to attract crucial developments. These incentives, including those used for the recent Panasonic manufacturing facility grocery store and workforce housing project, have demonstrably benefited our community by creating jobs, expanding the tax base, and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

CITY COUNCIL:
Victoria McMoran
Rob Daniels
Kevin Honomichl
Danny Lane
Courtney Tripp

Unfortunately, SB 468 threatens to unravel this progress. The proposed "revenue neutral" analysis requirement is particularly concerning for smaller communities like De Soto. The fixed costs associated with this analysis would disproportionately burden our limited resources, potentially rendering even minor incentive packages financially unviable.

This restriction would essentially eliminate a vital tool for attracting development, placing De Soto at a significant disadvantage compared to larger municipalities and even neighboring states. It would stifle our ability to compete for businesses, hindering job creation, housing opportunities, and overall economic expansion.

The prosperity of every Kansas community, regardless of size, is vital to the state's well-being. Imposing this additional hurdle on smaller communities like De Soto through SB 468 would be detrimental, jeopardizing near-term growth and long-term tax base stability.

Therefore, I urge you to reconsider SB 468. By voting against its passage, you can empower De Soto and other smaller Kansas communities to compete on a level playing field and achieve sustainable economic growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Walker
Rick Walker
Mayor of De Soto, KS