



**Unified Government of
Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas**

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Substitute for Senate Bill 197

Chelsee Chism, Director of Economic Development
for the
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas

House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
March 10, 2025

Good afternoon Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chelsee Chism and I am the Director of Economic Development for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas. I am submitting this testimony today in support of the Substitute for Senate Bill 197.

The UG has had multiple successful STAR Bond projects since the creation of STAR bonds in the 1990s. The first STAR Bond project in Kansas was the Kansas Speedway/Village West, which now generates over \$40 million in sales tax revenue for the state of Kansas. The STAR bond program makes Kansas more competitive, brings in new visitors, and gives local governments the ability to finance projects that have proven to substantially increase economic benefits in their communities and in the state in general.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the STAR Bond program which has fostered significant economic development in Wyandotte County and throughout Kansas. I urge you to continue to allow this opportunity for growth by passing Substitute for Senate Bill 197, with the request that the sunset clause be restored back to the July 1, 2030 date provided in the original bill.

Thank you.