



HOUSE COMMITTEE  
COMMERCE, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
MONDAY, MARCH 10  
WRITTEN ONLY - PROPONENT TESTIMONY SB197

Chairman Tarwater and Committee Members, thank you for allowing us to provide testimony today. The Greater Topeka Chamber represents nearly 1,200 businesses in our region. We are the lobbying entity for our economic development partner, Go Topeka. Today our testimony is in support of SB197.

The STAR Bonds tool is leveraged by economic development entities to be able to spur activity in our area in a substantial way. This unique program when utilized effectively has an impact on the community, region and of course our state.

As economic developers we understand that numerous factors contribute to our vision of prosperity in our region. Quality of life is a component that pairs with efforts to attract, retain, and expand employment opportunities. While intangible, it is often felt and seen by community members, as it determines whether they choose to live, work, and enjoy community offerings.

There are several factors that affect quality of life including amenities, education, healthcare access, public safety, housing, transportation, infrastructure quality and community engagement. Research shows that investment in quality of life and place is more effective than traditional tools.

We urge the committee to support the renewal of the STAR Bonds program and help pass SB 197.

Respectfully Submitted By:

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*The Greater Topeka Chamber is the lobbying entity for Go Topeka.*