

GREAT PLAINS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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Legislative Testimony In support of SB 197
Extending STAR Bond Legislation
for House Committee on Commerce
By Brad Reams, KPG/GPIP Director

March 10, 2025

Chair Alley and honorable committee members,

It is with great enthusiasm that I reach out to you on behalf of the Great Plains Development Authority, owners of the Great Plains Industrial Park, where we believe a captivating opportunity exists for the State of Kansas. The Kansas Proving Grounds at Great Plains Industrial Park, which boasts more than 6,800 acres of verdant, available land, is uniquely positioned to serve as a dynamic catalyst for growth and innovation. With a Foreign Trade Zone, Class 1 Rail access, and a robust infrastructure already in place, the possibilities for reimagined development are boundless.

Significant investment flowing in from tenants in diverse industries such as food and beverage, data centers, racing and entertainment, and fuel cell manufacturing, forms the crucible from which even greater ventures will emerge. We are laying the groundwork for a future that beckons with promise, one that will certainly captivate investors and business leaders alike. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 197, which proposes extending the STAR Bonds program authority until 2028. GPDA supports renewing the existing STAR Bond incentive tool to entice destination-based attractions to Kansas.

The State of Kansas has shown its ability to use STAR Bonds to drive economic activity and this incentive tool has successfully helped attract new visitors to the Kansas. Our location in rural Kansas would be ideal for highlighting the significant impact STAR Bond projects have in improving the quality of life for everyday Kansas through the growth of gross domestic product.

In today's global economy, it is critical we have incentive tools that will help Kansas stand out in a crowded competitive recruiting market. The STAR Bond program is also vital to attract corporate headquarters to Kansas. We are working with several international companies who desire to utilize this feature of the program and onshore manufacturing in Kansas.

On behalf of GPDA, I urge you to support the renewal of the STAR Bonds program to 2028 and pass SB 197. STAR Bonds can assist GPDA in maximizing the rich history and future which will undoubtedly shape Southeast Kansas for decades. Together, we could certainly orchestrate a new chapter in the economic tapestry of our shared interests, where each piece complements and enhances the other in ways previously unimagined. I look forward to speaking with you and the possibility of working together to craft a legacy of growth, innovation, and prosperity.

Regards,

Brad Reams

Brad Reams
Great Plains Industrial Park Director

