



**Testimony to Senate Commerce Committee
Written Only – Proponent for Sub for SB 197
March 10, 2025**

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Civic Council of Greater Kansas City

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber) and Civic Council of Greater Kansas City (Civic Council) representing nearly 2,000 businesses (40% of which are in Kansas) strongly endorses the usage of the economic development tool of the STAR Bond program in the state of Kansas and asks that these economic incentives be continued.

The KC Chamber/Civic Council are encouraged to see this bill extend the sunset date of the STAR Bond program to July 2028. When utilized properly, STAR Bonds have proven to be an effective incentive for business growth. The growth and success of western Wyandotte County should serve as a prime example of this program's effectiveness. Developments such as the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas, and the corresponding development from this project, are just two examples of the success that STAR Bonds has had on a community. As we move further into the 21st century and economies become more complex, it is critical that economic development tools, and measures of accountability for these economic development tools, adapt so that they can continue to drive progress for our communities.

The KC Chamber/Civic Council believe Kansas can signal to current and prospective businesses and employers that the state is open for business, prepared to remain competitive with other states, and sincere in its commitment to investing in a high-quality workforce by continuing the use of economic incentives like STAR Bonds. We believe the STAR Bonds program is a valuable development tool and recognizes common-sense reforms to the program will aid in the program's longevity as a tool to grow business in the state. The KC Chamber/ Civic Council ask the Commerce Committee to pass out Sub for SB 197 out of committee favorably.

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