

Testimony in Support of SB 227

House Committee on Tax

March 11, 2025

Chair and Members of the Committee.

My name is Jennifer Sourk, and I appear before you today on behalf of Clock Tower, LLC and Klaton Properties, LLC, both of which have made significant investments in historic buildings across the state of Kansas.

As an owner and preservationist of historic buildings, I strongly believe that historic tax credits play a vital role in preserving our state's rich history. These credits provide essential incentives for the rehabilitation of historic buildings, benefiting not only preservation efforts but also local communities and businesses.

However, the cost of preserving these buildings to the high standards set by the State Historical Society is often prohibitive. Construction materials and expert contractors specializing in historic preservation are significantly more expensive than traditional materials and non-specialized labor. As such, we support SB 227, which would provide parity for communities with populations of 50,000 or more, ensuring that historic preservation efforts in these areas receive the same incentives as those in smaller communities.

By leveling the playing field, SB 227 removes many of the current financial barriers, allowing the grandeur of our state's historic buildings to be preserved in all communities—large and small—for the enjoyment of future generations of Kansans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.