



To: Chairman, Rep. Adam Smith, and Members of the House Committee on Taxation
From: City Manager, Nickolaus J. Hernandez, and the City of Dodge City Commission
Date: March 10, 2025
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 227

Chairman Smith and Members of the House Committee on Taxation:

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on behalf of the City of Dodge City in support of Senate Bill No. 227.

The City of Dodge City's Legislative Policy has consistently supported historic rehabilitation tax credits. Dodge City would greatly benefit from an expansion of the existing tax credits to include populations up to 50,000. The City of Dodge City along with the Southwest Kansas Coalition (SKC), including the cities of Garden City and Liberal have included historic preservation as part of our legislative agenda prioritizing enhancements to this critical rehabilitation tax credit program.

This program is essential to revitalizing southwest Kansas communities. Without these tax credits, projects such as the restoration of the historic Santa Fe Depot, the transformation of Boot Hill Distillery, improvements to Hennessey Hall, and the rehabilitation of the buildings in Dodge City's Downtown Historic District would not be possible.

In addition to preserving our history, historic rehabilitation tax credits are an important driver for economic development that can help breathe new life into neglected properties turning them into dynamic commercial spaces, residential units, and public spaces. This program does more than just preserve history; but rather it shapes the future of our city and region by making strategic investments that support long-term economic resilience.

It is for all the reasons above that the City of Dodge City strongly urges your support of SB 227. Your consideration of our testimony and your support of SB 227 is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Nickolaus J. Hernandez
City Manager