

Written Only Testimony in Opposition to SB 283 Senate Assessment & Taxation Greg Kindle, President March 5, 2025

Chair Tyson and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing the Wyandotte Economic Development Council (WYEDC) to provide testimony opposing SB 283. WYEDC believes this legislation negatively impacts economic development in Wyandotte County and across Kansas communities, hindering efforts to attract new businesses and support existing ones.

Key tools like tax abatements, industrial revenue bonds, and tax increment financing are essential for creating jobs and capital investment. These tools are self-funding and use generated tax revenue for necessary improvements such as infrastructure.

SB 283's prohibition of cities from exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate while using these tools harms economic development opportunities. It forces local governments to choose between losing jobs and economic benefits or not exceeding the revenue neutral rate (RNR). WYEDC believes these financial decisions should be made at the local level.

Citizens expect local governments to manage mill levies and provide adequate services. Organizations like WYEDC work to increase the tax base and support local businesses to create healthy economic conditions and improve our quality of life.

As a county-wide organization, WYEDC focuses on growing the Wyandotte County economy. Access to these tools makes Kansas more attractive to businesses and ensures regional and national competitiveness – particularly for those of us along the Kansas/Missouri state line. Wyandotte County competes every day to attract and keep business in Kansas against our peers near and far.

Please do not take away our ability to be competitive. SB 283 inhibits growth in Kansas communities, benefiting other states at Kansas's expense.

WYEDC urges the Committee to oppose this legislation. If you have questions, please email me at gkindle@wyedc.org or by phone at 913-748-2272.

Sincerely,

President

Gregory & Kindle