

Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

Thank you for having this hearing on Star Bonds. Over the years I believe Star Bond legislation has made Kansas a more competitive state in recruiting major tourist attractions like the Kansas Speedway, Sporting KC, the Wichita Sports Forum and recently my client has brought the Mattel theme park to the Kansas City area because of Star Bonds – they made us more competitive than Omaha, KCMO, Des Moines and others that wanted to bring an almost half-a-billion dollar attraction to their region. This theme park will bring millions of dollars in property and income taxes to our state and hundreds of thousands of visitors annually.

I'm the first to admit there have been projects that haven't been as large, or arguably beneficial to the state of Kansas. We need to be careful as a state to not weaken this program by authorizing too many and I believe the Legislature should have as much oversight as possible.

I'll be requesting 2 amendments to this legislation. The first would be to allow manufacturing to take advantage of Star Bonds and the second would be to allow Star Bonds to be used to rehab vacant indoor shopping malls. This is personal for me as there is a blighted mall 5 minutes from my home in Wichita and it's getting worse by the year.

You know how to get in touch with me and I'd love to discuss further.

Michael O'Donnell

316.393.2653

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