



February 10, 2025

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber and our nearly 1,300 members representing all sectors of the Kansas economy, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **S.B. 197**, *AN ACT concerning the STAR Bonds Financing Act; extending the expiration date of the STAR Bonds Financing Act to July 1, 2030; amending K.S.A. 12-17,179 and repealing the existing section.*

This legislation simply extends the sunset for the STAR Bonds program to **July 1, 2030**. The Wichita Chamber strongly supports **S.B. 197**. Wichita and the south-central region of Kansas have benefited immensely from the STAR Bonds program over the years. In fact, Wichita would look significantly different today without this innovative program.

Some of the most significant STAR Bonds projects in our region include:

- **Wichita Sports Forum** – Opened in late 2015
- **Stryker Soccer Complex** – Completed in June 2021; includes an indoor facility and turf fields for various sports
- **Riverfront Stadium** – Partially funded by STAR Bonds; completed in 2020
- **Keeper of the Plains** – Part of Wichita's first STAR Bonds project
- **Top Golf** – A \$26 million project featuring an interactive golf experience, hotel, and retail space

The Wichita and south-central Kansas region is a growing and vibrant part of the state. Visitors from across the U.S. and around the world frequently express their surprise and amazement at the attractions and amenities Wichita has to offer. STAR Bonds projects have played a critical role in not only drawing these visitors but also leaving a lasting impression of Wichita as a dynamic destination.

With this in mind, we respectfully urge your support of **S.B. 197**.

Thank you, and I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason P. Watkins".

Jason P. Watkins