



# **Finney County Economic Development Corporation**

**Written Testimony in Support of SB 227  
Senate Committee on Commerce  
Lona DuVall, President/CEO  
Finney County Economic Development Corporation  
February 10, 2025**

Chairman Alley and Members of the Committee.

Kansas 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 ensure development tools are available for historic preservation across Kansas communities.

As with all economic development incentives, the goal is to allow for an incentive up front with the understanding that the long-term benefits will far outweigh the short-term concessions. Investment in historic buildings will not only allow for re-use of underutilized buildings, but it will also increase the real property valuation of our communities which allows us the opportunity to recoup these upfront investments in historic building renovation at the state and local level.

By ensuring development tools are in place for historic building preservation, we judge more developers will choose to renovate historic buildings throughout Kansas. SB 227 removes many of the current financial barriers, allowing the grandeur of our state's historic buildings to be preserved and repurposed in communities across the State for the enjoyment of future generations of Kansans.

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