

FALK

ARCHITECTS

February 10th, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for Kansas Senate Bill 227, which seeks to enhance historic tax credit incentives for the restoration and preservation of historic properties in our state. This legislation is a critical step toward revitalizing our communities, preserving our cultural heritage, and stimulating economic growth across Kansas. Historic tax credits have proven to be an effective tool for bridging the financial gap in rehabilitation projects, making it feasible for property owners to restore historic structures while maintaining their economic viability. Under the current Kansas program, tax credits of up to 25% are available for qualified expenditures on historic rehabilitation projects. SB 227 proposes to expand these incentives, particularly benefiting smaller communities and nonprofit organizations that often face greater financial challenges in preserving historic properties.

The benefits of enhanced historic tax credits are multifaceted:

1. **Economic Revitalization:** Historic preservation projects generate significant private investment, create jobs, and increase property values. The federal Historic Tax Credit program has already catalyzed over \$140 billion in private investments nationwide, and Kansas has seen similar successes at the state level.
2. **Community Development:** By restoring underutilized or vacant historic buildings, communities can attract new businesses, increase housing availability (including affordable housing), and revitalize downtown areas. This is especially impactful in rural towns where such projects can transform local economies.
3. **Cultural Preservation:** Kansas is home to many historic sites that reflect its rich history and identity. Enhanced tax credits will encourage property owners to preserve these landmarks for future generations while ensuring they remain functional and integrated into modern community life.
4. **Environmental Sustainability:** Rehabilitating existing buildings reduces waste and promotes sustainable development by reusing materials and infrastructure instead of constructing new buildings from scratch.
5. **Keeping Kansas dollars in Kansas.** Preserving and reusing existing buildings takes more labor than building new, but less materials. Typically those labor costs stay local and then get reinvested into our communities.

By increasing the percentage of tax credits available, SB 227 will ensure that the benefits of this program are expanded across Kansas. I urge you to support SB 227 and advocate for its passage during this legislative session. This bill represents a vital investment in Kansas's future by preserving its past while fostering economic growth and community development. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Falk", with a stylized, cursive script.

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