

March 6, 2025

Dear Chairman Alley and Senate Commerce Committee Members:

On behalf of the De Soto Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council, I am writing to express our support of House Bill 2340.

In my capacity with the De Soto Chamber and EDC, I have the privilege to help market Astra Enterprise Park, which is one of, if not the premier industrial park in the country. I don't have to tell you how amazing it is to have this land aggregated (over 9,000 acres) with necessary utilities (345 kv line) and infrastructure already in place, nearby or planned.

Having all those pieces in place brings a lot of attention to the park and subsequently the entire state of Kansas. We are on the radar of most major economic development projects that are looking in the Midwest. With the buzz that started with Panasonic, we expect this area to be the advanced manufacturing jobs hub for many years to come.

I have been impressed with the foresight exhibited by the Astra team in redeveloping the former Sunflower site. They've taken a thoughtful approach on clearing the land of thousands of structures; to include recycling concrete foundations so they may be repurposed for parking lot aggregate, and pulling rebar to be melted down. All this work is cleaning up the site and preparing it for its next chapter.

That next chapter is now. We are regularly on short lists for site selection. As part of that process, it becomes a matter of site elimination, rather than selection. Astra Enterprise Park makes a great first impression on paper and backs it up on in-person visits when prospects arrive. We, the local/regional development team, have the opportunity to tell our story. This goes well when we discuss Kansas, the De Soto area, incentives, workforce, infrastructure and the like.

The challenge we face becomes the timely delivery of the land for development. We understand that there is a process to go through, but the process should be that of working towards returning this land to productive use. House Bill 2340 will help the De Soto community and Astra Enterprise Park do just this.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of support for House Bill 2340.

Respectfully,



Tim Holverson, President
De Soto Economic Development Council