

House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development

Hearing on House Bill 2561

February 10, 2012

Testimony of Jason Hilgers

Assistant City Manager, City of Manhattan, Kansas

Good afternoon Chairperson Brown and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development. My name is Jason Hilgers, and I am the Assistant City Manager for the City of Manhattan. I want to thank you for this time to address the Committee regarding the extension of the STAR bond legislation.

The City of Manhattan supports HB 2561. The bill extends the potential use of STAR bonds through the year 2017. Manhattan is on the cusp of opening a world class facility and newest statewide attraction in our Flint Hills Discovery Center on April 14th of this year. The Discovery Center was made possible through a partnership between the City of Manhattan and the State of Kansas by utilizing a portion of a broader \$50 million STAR bond award, which was part of an overall \$200 million downtown redevelopment project in Manhattan, KS.

Extending this legislation will provide municipalities with another redevelopment and economic development tool, to assist in attracting visitors to this great State, recruiting businesses, and staying competitive in Kansas. Thank you for your consideration today.