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To: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
From: Craig R. Crossette, City Administrator
Re: Opposition to SB 468
Date: February 9, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

If you wish to kill economic development in the state of Kansas, SB 468 will be an effective tool in doing so. I challenge you to identify an incorporated city that does not have at least one property tax abatement on the books. Most of them are probably abating property taxes for their one or two largest employers, of which the city would eventually die from outmigration should those employers close their business.

IRB's and other tax abatement tools have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of private investment in Goddard, a small town of around 5,900 residents. Our Dillons Grocery Distribution Warehouse, our Walmart, Universal Products, and many others, all would not have been located in our humble community without economic development incentive tools such as IRBs or other tax abatements.

Our City Council has fought valiantly to keep our city mill levy the LOWEST in Sedgwick County for cities of the 2nd or 3rd class, at 31 mills. Now that our community is growing exponentially, from 4,344 people in 2010 to an estimated 11,939 people by 2030, it would quite literally be impossible to fund our public infrastructure needs without exceeding the revenue neutral rate annually. SB 468 is asking cities in our great state to choose between ostracizing our business community and raising taxes necessary to serve our citizens the vital services needed to protect their health and welfare. I hope you see how objectively terrible this bill is, and work to serve all Kansas communities by removing it. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions you may have. Thank you for your service to Kansans!

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Crossette

Craig R. Crossette,
City Administrator