

Testimony to Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee Written Only - Opposing SB 446 Wednesday, February 7th The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber), representing approximately 2,000 members (40% of which are in Kansas) opposes SB 446 which would prohibit all foreign nationals, foreign businesses, and foreign governments from purchasing more than three acres of land in Kansas unless authorized by a new government agency.

The KC Chamber believes that national security is of the utmost importance to our residents and businesses, and we applaud policymakers at all levels who work to increase security and public safety. However, we believe that SB 446 goes too far and will have the unintended consequences of restricting free enterprise and economic development in our state. The KC Chamber supports a pro-business environment and a free market in real estate that allows Kansas to be competitive in an increasingly complex 21st century economy. We believe that prohibiting or restricting foreign ownership of land in Kansas would hinder economic development and reduce our ability to remain globally competitive.

Senate Bill 446 will place undue restrictions on business and trade in Kansas and have a negative impact on supplies coming from international markets. This legislation would serve to restrict so much of the international trade Kansas has been working to grow with countries around the globe, something that Kansans and Kansas businesses rely on.

The KC Chamber urges this committee and the Kansas Legislature to continue its record of supporting economic development and growth in our state take no further action on SB 446.

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