



*The Historic Lackman-Thompson Estate*

11180 Lackman Road

Lenexa, KS 66219-1236

913.888.1414

DATE: February 7, 2024

BILL: Opponent to SB 446—Ban on Foreign Real Property Ownership Unless Exempted, Creation of State Land Council

BY: Ashley Sherard, CEO  
Lenexa Chamber of Commerce

TO: Sen. Mike Thompson, Chairman  
Members, Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee

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Thank you for this opportunity to express our concerns about SB 446, legislation that to our understanding would impose a general ban after July 1, 2024, on all foreign ownership of real property in Kansas greater than 3 acres as well as leases two years or longer unless it is subject to a specific exemption enumerated in the bill, the most broadly applicable being an exemption granted by a newly-created State Land Council comprised of the Attorney General, Adjutant General, Governor, Secretary of State, and Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Importantly, the grounds for granting or denying a State Land Council exemption are not prescribed in the legislation – the Council would set its own policies and procedures – and the Council would only be required to meet once every other month.

The impact of global investment across Kansas is significant, nearly all of it tied to countries that are allies and important trade partners, not targets of national security concern. According to the Kansas Department of Commerce, there are 589 international companies operating in our state, growing the Kansas economy and providing jobs in our communities for more than 76,000 workers, including some of the state’s most iconic employers like Airbus, Bombardier, Kubota, and Schwan’s.

While maintaining national security is important, we believe the scope and requirements of SB 446 are overly sweeping and would seriously challenge the state’s ability to continue to attract and retain vital international capital. The environment among states as we contend for investment and jobs is hyper-competitive. *The uncertainty and delay the requirements of SB 446 would inject – even if an exemption would almost certainly be granted – ensures Kansas will needlessly lose excellent economic opportunities it otherwise would have earned.*

We strongly urge you to reject SB 446 and consider a more narrowly-tailored approach that avoids unnecessary market restrictions and focuses on the targets of security concern – those on the federal foreign adversaries list. Thank you for your consideration of our input on this important issue.