



**Overland
Park
Chamber™**

To: Senator Mike Thompson and Members of the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs

**From: Kevin Walker, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce**

Date: 7 February 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 446. This legislation, if enacted, could have a chilling effect on economic development, investment, and job growth in Kansas.

We fully understand and appreciate the serious concerns of national security. Our nation and state must be vigilant to protect our food supply, our communications and utility infrastructure, and sensitive facilities. However, we believe that SB 446 is too broad in its application.

The bill calls for banning all foreign interests in real property. The bill would be more appropriate if it were only applicable to foreign adversaries as recognized by the federal government. Instead, this legislation applies to adversaries as well as our allies.

Further, the bill creates the State Land Council to sit in judgment on all applications for property ownership by foreign entities. The bill fails to articulate under what conditions a foreign investor might be approved or disapproved for securing interest in property within our state, leaving that decision to five individuals sitting on the panel. If we are going to exclude foreign investment in our state, then we must be clear on the chosen parameters.

Beyond interfering with the free market, the overly broad approach and lack of clarity are among the major concerns with this bill. The unintended consequences of this bill are also very real.

Businesses prohibited from owning real property in Kansas may consider responding by not conducting business of any kind with any Kansas-based entity. It is also possible any country may impose similar limits upon Kansas-based businesses that conduct business globally, negatively impacting jobs and revenue.

Kansas should be finding ways to encourage more economic trade with our state – not less. We ask that you not support SB 446.