

15 JUNE, 2024

Dear Kansas State Legislators,

Thank you for your service. I have agreed with, praised and promoted your "[A Better Way](#)" collaborative planning in the Kansas House and Senate. We the People of Kansas need tax relief at all levels of government. And I know that Republicans have banded together to do just that and more. Thank you!

But... This STAR bonds initiative feels like a fever dream.

While tax relief bill after bill has been vetoed and unable to get the votes to override, now the same champions of tax relief are actively seeking to blur the boundaries of the public and private sectors.

This is against our great nation's founding principles. Private property – the ability of citizens to acquire, use, keep and sell it – is from the bedrock of our God-given liberties. For any level of government to tax the citizens in order to pay for a private business violates the basic liberty of private property because it chooses beneficiaries and funders of a private sector endeavor. As one man put it in the case of the failed sales tax continuation referendum in Jackson County, it is "Billionaires asking poor people to subsidize their playground." And now, the Kansas legislature whom we've supported in working toward tax cuts, are (as I understand) skipping any public vote and aiming to decide for themselves if taxpayer dollars will fund a proposal to bring the Chiefs to Kansas. These STAR bonds are based on projections and estimations. If they fail, the taxpayers are ultimately holding the risk in the long term. If the sports teams get their stadiums through public funding once, what's to keep them from threatening to move later when they don't get their latest wish granted?

You make your predictions of benefits and revenue, which are only speculations. Well, I speculate gentrification, abuses of eminent domain, and that the Chiefs (no matter how much we love them) are not going to (as much as I hate to say it) always be world champions and all that entails...

Please read about *a better way yet* as stated below in my personal letter to Mr. Clark Hunt.

Finish your mission of tax relief. Please. Keep to our founding principles because they work. Please don't slide into socialism. We've trusted you. Please represent us, rich and poor alike. Keep the public and private sectors separate. Resist gambling for sparkly things with taxpayer money, please.

Respectfully,

Lanell Griffith

June 14, 2024

Clark Hunt Chairman and CEO, Kansas City Chiefs
1 Arrowhead Drive
Kansas City, MO
64129

Dear Mr. Hunt:

I write you today with a heavy heart as a big decision looms in four days by our Kansas state legislature. As you know, they will be voting on whether or not to approve Sales Tax And Revenue (STAR) bonds to fund a new Chiefs (and perhaps Royals) stadium in our Sunflower State.

Now while I love the Chiefs as much as the next person, I oppose the use of taxpayer money funding a private enterprise. I love the Chiefs and watch every televised game I can, but I love our country and the principles of our founding more. Our Constitutional Republic is founded on timeless principles that have made us perhaps the most blessed nation on earth, despite our problems, we still are the freest country in human history. Part of that foundation is the upholding of private property. With the new stadium(s) potentially coming to Kansas by taxpayer funding comes the very real threat of eminent domain to real people's homes and businesses. It also blurs the public and private sectors, wherein the lawmakers decide who (you) gets the funds for a private sector endeavor – meaning that We the People (despite Missouri voting it down) pay for your multibillion-dollar stadium.

Do you know what it's like to be poor? Have you ever had to sift through couch cushions to find enough change for the interstate toll? Have you ever choked back tears at the grocery store? These are fairly common occurrences for some who are just trying to make ends meet especially without government assistance or interference. I've been there. I'm far from that place now, but I remember well and empathize with those who oppose even excess sales tax revenue going to a stadium — because of what it is like to be nicked and dimed to the point of taxes interfering with your basic needs.

If the Kansas legislature approves public funds to drive your business, please know that as much as we would love to see the Chiefs come to Kansas – we the taxpayers just cannot afford it, as

this June 18th special session should be about tax relief, not special interest projects. Respectfully consider staying in your iconic stadium. Make the fans and nation love the Chiefs more by privately funding the stadium renovations and accomplish only the renovations you can afford by these means. Perhaps your players, especially Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce, and Coach Andy Reid could put forth the amount of 3/8 of a percent of their sales-taxable purchases toward the stadium renovation! What a public relations win that would be! Kansas and Missouri love our Chiefs! We the (common tax-bracket) People cannot wisely afford tickets to a game. Please don't take our tax dollars, even if our state legislature approves it, to fund your multibillion-dollar business.

As much as we love the Chiefs and thank you for all the franchise has brought to Kansas City, I plead with you to uphold the values of our nation's founding by not muddying private and public sector funds. Be a shining example to other teams. View this prospect from the perspective of those less financially fortunate than you.

May God give you wisdom.

Sincerely,

Lanell Griffith

Kansas resident