



Testimony In support of Professional Sports Franchise STAR Bond Legislation
Joint Senate and House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Written only submitted by Andrew Nave, Greater Wichita Area Partnership
Monday, June 17, 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to support the Professional Sports Franchise Sales Tax and Revenue (STAR) Bond legislation under consideration. The Kansas Economic Development Alliance, (KEDA), is a statewide organization representing more than 125 economic development professionals from all corners of the state. KEDA supports expanding the existing STAR Bond incentive tool to attract major league sports franchises to the State of Kansas as an economic development opportunity.

We support the legislation and recommend it include the following:

- Up to but not exceeding 75 percent of the sales taxes and revenues to pay for the stadium investments,
- Up to but not to exceed 30-year term for STAR Bond use,
- Inclusion of property tax valuation into the legislation to encourage consistency of property tax generation regardless of any Kansas community,
- Inclusion of sales tax exemption on construction of the stadium and surrounding STAR Bond district,
- Control of local sales taxes to be left with the local community, and
- Allowance for the State to collect their share of sales taxes beyond the STAR Bond district borders, if necessary, but local control remains.

The State of Kansas has shown its ability to utilize STAR Bonds to drive economic activity and that this incentive tool has successfully helped attract new visitors to the State. KEDA appreciates the way in which this legislation is targeted to a specific industry and is time-based.

KEDA members are keenly aware there are limited opportunities for these kinds of high-profile investments and encourage the State to make every effort within financial reason to bring them to Kansas. We appreciate the forward-looking approach to attracting investment to Kansas.

Submitted By:

Kansas Economic Development Alliance, Board of Directors

Mitch Robinson, Salina Community Economic Development

Greg Kindle, Wyandotte Economic Development Council

Debra Teufel, Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce

Janet McRae, Miami County Economic Development

Beth Shelton, Harvey County Economic Development Council

Ashley Sherard, Lenexa Chamber of Commerce

Joann Knight, Dodge City/Ford County Development Corp.

Stacie Schmidt, Ellsworth County Economic Development

Danny Soldan, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce

Paul Bean, Franklin County Development Council

Lisa Haack, Leavenworth County Development Corporation

Joe Terick, Black Hills Energy

Nikki Pfannenstiel, Sunflower Electric Power Corp.