



To: Members of the House and Senate Commerce Committees
From: Kevin Walker, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Date: 17 June 2024

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the proposal to modify the STAR Bond program.

Let me start with a clear and direct statement: **Losing the Kansas City Chiefs and the Kansas City Royals would devastate our region and our state. We cannot let this happen.**

Professional sports franchises are not just sources of entertainment; they are economic powerhouses. They bring jobs, stimulate local businesses, and put our region on the global map. The financial impact they generate is invaluable and cannot be overstated.

There are cities across the United States ready to step up to the “big leagues” and become a major league city should our region fumble the ball. As Kansans, we can help ensure this doesn’t happen. This legislation is not about “luring” or “poaching” these franchises from Missouri. This is about making sure that our region has yet another tool available to ensure these franchises remain in the Kansas City region.

We understand that this proposal has a lot to consider. However, take a moment to consider what life would be like in our region if we lost one or both franchises. From a recent World Series championship to back-to-back Superbowl crowns, these teams bring civic pride, worldwide exposure, economic impact, and jobs. We believe being ready to step up to the plate should Missouri fail to broker a deal is prudent and an investment worth making for our state and region.

We urge your support of this proposal to amend the STAR Bond program.