

NEUTRAL TESTIMONY

TO: Senator Renee Erickson, Chairwoman
Representative Sean Tarwater, Chairman
Senator Usha Reddi, Ranking Minority Member
Representative Jason Probst, Ranking Minority Member

FROM: Will Lawrence, Chief of Staff, Governor Laura Kelly

RE: Neutral Testimony Regarding STAR Bonds Legislation

DATE: June 17, 2024

Chairwoman Erickson, Chairman Tarwater, Ranking Members, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written neutral testimony regarding potential changes to the STAR Bonds statute to bring a second professional sports franchise to Kansas. After a review of the most recent draft of the proposed legislation, the Governor and her administration remain neutral on the underlying policy proposed in this legislation. At this time, we do not believe that anything contained in this legislation would cause Governor Kelly to veto the bill. Obviously, the bill must achieve passage in both chambers subject to debate and amendment. We will be monitoring this legislation throughout the process and will do our best to provide feedback on any amendments that pass to determine if they change the Governor's position.

Governor Kelly's administration did provide input on early drafts of this legislation through the Department of Commerce. This input was strictly related to the mechanics of STAR Bonds and other potential economic development tools. That is the extent of our discussions on this topic. What very limited knowledge of possible concepts for where a stadium could potentially be built has come from public news media reports. Thus, the only questions we can answer are ones related to these potential changes to STAR Bonds.

As always, I am happy to answer any questions you may have.