



OLATHE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
ONE VISION. ONE VOICE.

Written Testimony presented to the Senate Ways and Means Committee  
SB 463—Renewal of STAR Bonds Program  
Submitted by Tim McKee, CEO of Olathe Chamber  
March 16, 2012

Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

On behalf of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce, its Board of Directors, and its members, I respectfully ask the Senate Ways and Means Committee to renew STAR Bond program and not allow this powerful economic development tool to sunset. In fact, I urge you to eliminate a sunset clause altogether so that generations to come will benefit from the economic development activity we have seen as a direct result of its use.

The success of STAR Bonds in Kansas has been stellar; this dynamic incentive has lived up to its name and exceeded expectations since we began offering the bonds. The State of Kansas and its communities have profited from the millions of dollars STAR bonds have generated and the thousands of jobs they helped spawn. Those benefits are especially vital in a day when governments are still searching for new revenue sources and our citizens for jobs.

Although there may be no specific STAR Bond projects underway or eminent in Olathe at this time, left in place, this incentive will continue to give Kansas a significant advantage in attracting development, especially as the economy continues to improve and developers begin investing in major projects once again.

We ask that you help preserve STAR Bonds because they are a valuable economic development tool for the State of Kansas. We urge your support of SB 463.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Tim McKee, CEO, Olathe Chamber of Commerce