

Legislative Testimony: **PRO** HB 2168 Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act

Submitted By: Janae Talbott, Executive Director, Russell County Economic Development & CVB, 331 E. Wichita, Russell, Ks 67665. Email: rced@russellks.org Phone: 785-483-4000

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support of HB 2168 Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act. Working in economic development in rural Kansas the past 8.5 years has shown that incentives at times need to be designed specifically for urban and specifically for rural. The one size fits all concept does not work in every situation. Therefore, the necessity to have programs in place that are designed for urban and rural become a need in order to adequately grow businesses in both the urban and rural areas of Kansas.

HB 2168 Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act provides the opportunity for both new job creation and new business development in rural Kansas. This program would be unique to rural areas, therefore, creating an additional incentive for businesses to consider rural areas, or for existing businesses in rural areas to expand. The opportunity for new job growth, new business development, or business expansion are obvious growth concepts needed in rural areas that are currently experiencing economic downturns due to the commodity based oil and ag industries.