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Senate Chamber

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SENATE BILL 203- COWLEY COUNTY ROZ

- 77 Kansas Counties are included in the ROZ
- ROZ provides state income tax abatement and student loan reimbursement to new Kansas residents
- We have written testimony from local Cowley employers, manufacturing companies, medical facilities, education institutions and Cowley First supporting the Rural Opportunity Zone in the county
- Cowley First works with our local businesses and major employers in the county
  - #1 concern – workforce recruitment and retention
  - 9 cities in Cowley County #1 concern is population decline
- Cowley County has a strong manufacturing presence
  - 25% local manufacturing jobs and 50% of health care jobs require education beyond high school
- Being included in the ROZ will allow Cowley County to join the other 77 Kansas counties to recruit new qualified employees, add to their workforce which also helps to reverse their population decline
- Finding qualified employees is the #1 problem to employment growth in Cowley
- Being near metropolitan area also hampers population growth, the ROZ will help this by providing an incentive to live, work, and raise a family in Cowley County
- As you can see from their written testimony, many of the employers will match the \$1,500 benefit with a local contribution.
- With that I will stand for questions