



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony of Sandra Rupp, Ness County Commissioner
Before the Senate Committee on Commerce
In Support of House Bill No. 2168
February 6, 2018**

Member Counties

Barber

Barton

Clark

Ellis

Finney

Ford

Gove

Grant

Gray

Hamilton

Harper

Haskell

Hodgeman

Kearny

Lane

Logan

Meade

Morton

Ness

Norton

Rawlins

Rice

Russell

Rush

Scott

Seward

Sheridan

Sherman

Stanton

Stevens

Thomas

Trego

Wallace

Wichita

Chairperson Lynn and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Legislative Policy Group (KLPG) would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony today. KLPG is a non-partisan, non-profit organization comprised of elected commissioners representing the collective interests of 35 rural Kansas counties. We appreciate the opportunity to submit remarks in support of House Bill No. 2168.

House Bill No. 2168 seeks to establish the **Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act** to incentivize economic growth in our rural communities by providing employers who expand or create jobs in rural markets access to private capital and tax credits to the program investors.

KLPG endorses this proposal which will promote rural economic development by supporting businesses with their investment in Kansas.

In our rural communities, business growth is critical to providing valuable employment opportunities to our residents. Our rural counties strive to attract quality jobs and business opportunities to our communities. Our labor force has the desirable work ethic, just not the jobs to sustain and grow our communities.

We must do what we can to restore rural communities. New and innovative incentives like the Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act in our economic development arsenal can only help. If we don't try, our joint efforts to limit the out-migration of our youth will get tougher, making job creation and retention even more challenging.

The Rural Opportunity Zone Act has provided employees an incentive to locate in our rural communities. House Bill No. 2168 will provide a boost to employers by facilitating investment/expansion capital for growth, a fundamental need of business.

House Bill No. 2168 may be the kick starter that we need in our economic development toolbox to make our communities thrive and succeed.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to present written testimony to the Committee. I encourage you to support House Bill No. 2168.

Sandra Rupp
President