



Date: February 9, 2024
To: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
From: L. Travis Hicks, CEO & Co-Chairman
TriCentury Bank De Soto, KS
Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 468 Revenue Neutral Rate & Economic Incentives

Dear Chairman Tyson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Travis Hicks, I am the CEO and Co-Chairman of TriCentury Bank in De Soto, KS. We are an active community bank participating in commercial banking in small communities in the Kansas City area. I am also a local developer that has successfully used economic incentives to better our community through the attraction of a grocery store and an apartment complex to house our workforce. Neither of these types of projects existed at the time in De Soto and neither of them could have been accomplished but for the use of economic incentives.

I am writing to you in opposition of SB 468 as it will limit a municipality's ability to make sound decisions on the future of their growth. Additionally, this bill has a disproportionate effect on smaller communities as the percentage of revenue is much less than a larger community, therefore the smallest economic incentive could very likely lead to a negative Revenue Neutral analysis. Smaller municipalities need every tool available to them to help attract sound development and to level the playing field regarding the competition for growth in larger municipalities or even adjoining states. Sound economic development decisions that include incentives in our communities create opportunities for business and economic growth. Our market in De Soto, KS where our bank is headquartered, has realized tremendous benefits from the economic incentives available and that made projects financially feasible, which would have otherwise never happened.

This bill will have a negative impact for De Soto, as well as other smaller municipalities to grow and compete with larger municipalities. It will also affect the long-term tax base, employment growth, and housing in these smaller markets.

The prosperity of business – whether it be manufacturing, housing, or small businesses – in every community is critical to the Kansas economy. Placing this additional Revenue Neutral test on economic incentives will only create another hurdle for smaller communities to overcome. It will ultimately discourage economic development in our smaller communities and have a substantial negative impact for near term growth and a longer-term tax base.

I respectfully request that when the Committee **considers SB 468, they consider voting against passage** to give our smaller municipalities the chance to compete on a level playing field with the rest of the state of Kansas, but also adjoining states that are using these tools for economic growth.

Sincerely,

L. Travis Hicks
CEO & Co-Chairman
TriCentury Bank