



## Travel Industry Association of Kansas

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### **House Commerce and Economic Development Committee**

Written Testimony In Support of HB 2561

By Natalie Bright

February 10, 2012

Chairman Brown and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity today to submit testimony on behalf of the Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK) in support of House Bill 2561.

TIAK represents the many advocates of the travel industry in Kansas, works to bring people to Kansas and encourages Kansans to travel throughout the state. Each Kansas visitor generates about \$238 in expenditures and \$57 of that goes to businesses that do not directly “touch” that visitor. Additionally, every 203 visitors create one new job in Kansas. Tourism is extremely important to the economic welfare of Kansas.

Tourism is one of the economic drivers of the Kansas economy, which is why we support HB 2561. TIAK encourages the committee to eliminate the sunset on STAR Bonds. Many Kansas communities have used STAR Bonds to develop new attractions and grow their communities. These new attractions bring additional visitors and revenue to the state. While the members of TIAK support HB 2561, which proposes to extend the current sunset of the STAR Bonds to 2017, TIAK also supports the elimination of the sunset provision entirely. TIAK believes by removing the sunset on the program, additional development will be encouraged and bring new tourism opportunities to the state of Kansas.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB 2561 and suggestion the sunset provision is removed. We will be happy to answer questions at any time.