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February 7, 2012

TO: Kansas House of Representatives

FROM: Dave Wilson
General Manager, Sterling Services

CC: Honorable Bob Bethell

RE: Historic Preservation Programs

Dear Representatives,

I write to express vigorous support for historic preservation tax credit programs in Kansas, and corresponding concern about HB 2560 which in my opinion will eviscerate those programs.

My background in business here in Sterling permits me to discuss job creation with credibility. Along with Sterling's Neighborhood Revitalization Program, Kansas Department of Commerce's Main Street programs, and support from Rice County's Economic Development initiatives, the tax credits and preservation incentives provided by the Kansas Legislature, Kansas Department of Revenue, and Kansas Historical Society deserve credit for the creation, since 2002, of two million dollars of annual payroll here in Sterling in our businesses.

Each of these programs has been an invaluable tool for investment and development resulting in JOBS.

If any of these programs did not exist, or did not operate effectively, our efforts to create jobs in Sterling would not have come to pass. HB2560 threatens to render the preservation tax credit incentives ineffective.

Anyone trying to build something needs tools. Without the right tools, the work might never take place, as the effort and cost would exceed the benefit.

Historic preservation tax credits have proven to be an incredibly effective tool to acquire and improve our physical plant as we have built our business. We now occupy 25,000 square feet of commercial space in historic downtown Sterling.

It's a simple cause-and-effect consideration: you can expect those of us building jobs and growth to build more slowly, or not at all, if you take away our tools.

Keep the preservation tax credit programs in place, or expand them. Do not scale them back or eliminate them.

Respectfully,

David R. Wilson
General Manager