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Monday, March 15, 2021

To: Representative Jim Kelly, Chair of Financial Institutions and Rural Development  
Ref: Proponent for House Bill 2431 concerning revisions to Rural Opportunity Zones

On behalf of the Cowley County Board of Commissioners I wish to offer our support and endorsement of the request of expanding eligibility, changing the definition and the added programs for the Rural Opportunity Zones (ROZ) as presented in HB 2431.

Cowley County continues to fully support the Cowley First-Cowley County Economic Development Partnership as they aid and support economic growth of our County. With Cowley County being close to The City of Wichita, one of the largest metropolitan areas in the State of Kansas, there is more of a challenge for attract and recruit families to live and work in a smaller community instead of relocating to the bigger city.

Being a ROZ County will aide us in reversing the trend of population decline that is causing negative impact on employers. ROZ designation will assist in recruiting people to fill the manufacturing, teaching and healthcare positions and to encourage graduates from local colleges to return to the area.

We appreciate the support for Cowley County and its economic growth.

Sincerely,

Lucas Goff  
County Administrator