



Office of the City Manager

March 16, 2021

TO: Representative Jim Kelly, Chair of Financial Institutions and Rural Development
FROM: Randy Frazer, City Manager
RE: Proponent for Kansas House Bill 2431 to Designate Counties with a population under 35,000 as a Rural Opportunity Zone

Dear Chairman Kelly:

On behalf of Cowley First—Cowley County Economic Development Partnership, I am pleased to write in support and endorsement of Kansas House Bill 2431 to designate Counties with a population under 35,000 as a Rural Opportunity Zone (ROZ).

The City of Arkansas City wholeheartedly supports this bill as we believe it will assist us in recruiting and retaining skilled laborers and employees to our community.

We are experiencing an increase in opportunities for new workers, from expanded employment opportunities at local industries such as Creekstone Farms Premium Beef and KanPak, as well as new housing construction and public amenities such as City parks.

Creekstone Farms, winner of the Governors Exporter of the Year award is looking at all available options for increasing its workforce and are current transporting employees daily from the Wichita area to work in Arkansas City on 4 buses. Any economic incentive we could obtain to encourage and promote new workers moving into our City, which is a key focus of the Rural Opportunity Zones, would be most welcome.

We urge you to strongly consider supporting House Bill 2431 on behalf of the businesses, industries, and communities of Cowley County.

Sincerely,

Randy Frazer
City Manager