



TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2569
House Financial Institutions and Rural Development
Scott Brown
February 14, 2022

Chairman Kelly and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today in favor of House Bill 2569. I am Scott Brown, President of Friends of Historic Preservation, a nonprofit organization that champions historic preservation and downtown and rural development in Kansas. Our members include developers, bankers, consultants, historians, preservation advocates, and downtown development organizations.

My colleagues and I have experienced first-hand the economic revitalization and community pride that occurs when we invest in our historic neighborhoods and downtowns. As General Counsel for Faultless Starch and board member of many community development organizations, I have been involved in the renaissance of Historic West Bottoms, and neighborhood development plans such as KCK's Armourdale neighborhood development plan. Other FOHP members have similar backgrounds, converting schools and industrial buildings all over Kansas into new uses such as housing.

The state's historic development community is ready to expand our efforts into smaller cities throughout rural Kansas, but we need tools to fill the financing and capacity gaps our smaller communities present. The incentives included in House Bill 2569, including an increase in the state rehabilitation credit for rural communities and incentives for banks to finance these projects, will enable us to convert our state's rich historic architectural resources to meet our current needs, including housing. Thank you for your consideration of this much needed Bill.

Scott Brown
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Friends of Historic Preservation