



Area Chamber of Commerce

120 W. Ash, P.O. Box 586 • Salina, KS 67402-0586 • 785-827-9301 • fx 785-827-9758 • www.salinakansas.org

2/4/2022

Derek Lee
Building Kansas LLC
buildingkansasluc@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Lee:

The Salina Area Chamber of Commerce believes the proposed Aero Plains housing development in west Salina is an important project that will benefit the entire community. We support the vision of this development as it is pivotal to supporting the current employment needs and projected growth of our local employers and business community. Currently, as of 2/4/2022, there are 1,510 total open advertised open positions in Saline County and an estimated 1,300 new quality and premium wage jobs in Salina projected in the next five years.

Tax credits, Moderate Income Housing Grants, and Rural Housing Incentive Districts are all proven vehicles for moving the needle and creating an atmosphere for housing growth and support. Both SB 375 and SB 376 enhance the ability of local developers, like Building Kansas, LLC. to move even faster and provide high quality, built to last housing that would be transformational for our community. The expanded funding from these programs will accommodate new employees and facilitate business growth the Salina area and North Central Kansas overall.

Both the Kansas Statewide Housing Needs Assessment 2021 and the City of Salina's Live Salina Housing Plan clearly demonstrates the pent-up demand and lack of supply for this type of housing. Additionally, the average age of our housing stock in Saline County is 1966 and are in sore need of updating or demolition.

It is more than anecdotal information that our employers are losing qualified and interested external candidates because the lack of find adequate housing. For Saline County and Salina to retain and grow the population of Kansas, housing is the number one limiting factor for our employers and economy to reach its full potential. The residential units that Building Kansas LLC plan to construction demonstrate to our employers the City's, County's, and State's commitment to supporting the growth of our business community and ultimately the state of Kansas as a whole.

The housing developer partners on this project are all local to North Central Kansas and have a track record of building quality homes; in addition, they utilize local contractors and sub-contractors on their residential construction projects. The projects meet numerous identified community needs, state needs, and would both have a direct impact by producing much needed housing products, retaining jobs in the residential construction sector, supporting new job growth by our employers, and increasing owner occupied homes, which is the biggest wealth building avenue for many moderate-income families.

Please accept this letter of support for the expanded funding of these programs as outlined in the bill language.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric L. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Eric L. Brown, IOM, MBA
President & CEO
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce