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Written Only

STATEMENT OF BRAD SMOOT
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL
AND STATE AFFAIRS
REGARDING 2022 HOUSE BILL 2462
MARCH 18, 2022

Dear Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee:

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is one of the four resident federally-recognized Indian Tribes in Kansas. As you may know, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation is one of the largest employers in Jackson County, Kansas, and is a significant economic stimulator in northeast Kansas. Tribal government operations, Prairie Band Casino and Resort, and other business enterprises employ over 1,000 tribal and non-tribal employees who reside in Jackson and surrounding counties, including Douglas, Brown, Jefferson, Nemaha, Pottawatomie and Shawnee.

The Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation supports the passage of HB 2462 as written. The current standing committee membership requirement in K.S.A. § 46-2303 is an unnecessary impediment to participation in the work of the Joint Committee on State-Tribal Relations by legislators with experience and expertise in the important matters under the Committee's jurisdiction.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment and we urge the Committee to act favorably on 2022 House Bill 2462.