

Maria A Kury Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Written Opponent Testimony of SB446 For the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

February 7th, 2024

Chair Thompson and Committee Members,

My name is Maria Kury and I have the honor to serve as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors at the Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (WHCC). Our organization is committed to fostering economic opportunities in the Hispanic market and business community.

I am writing to express our concerns about SB446. While we recognize the state's interest in national security, we believe laws affecting private property rights, like SB446, should be carefully crafted to avoid unintended consequences and discrimination. The current wording leaves too much room for interpretation, risking the restriction of hardworking Hispanic individuals from pursuing the American dream, such as small business ownership and home ownership.

Many Hispanic and Latino Kansans strive for the American dream while going through the legal citizenship process. Certain businesses, spanning from manufacturing to farming to telecommunications, may require more than 3 acres of land for operations. SB446's provisions could subject them to vague standards and bureaucratic hurdles, hindering their ability to contribute to the Kansas economy.

Successful business owners should be able to celebrate their achievements by choosing a home freely, without being restricted by arbitrary land size requirements. It is not in the state's best interest to impose additional government regulations without a clear and compelling reason.

We urge the committee to oppose SB446 in its current form and explore alternative solutions that address security concerns while avoiding unintended consequences. Thank you for your time, and we hope you consider our perspective during your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Maria Kury

Chairperson, Board of Directors

Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Inc.