

Date: February 5, 2024
Bill number: SB 446
Disposition: Opponent
Name of Conferee: Li Wang
Representing: Self

Chairman Thompson and the Members of the Committee,

My name is Li Wang and I come from China. I have been living in Kansas for almost ten years. I am writing as an opponent to Bill SB446 in Kansas, and I urge you to reconsider its implications.

It is imperative to note that federal laws in the United States explicitly prohibit discrimination based on national origin, including in the housing sector. The proposed bill targeting foreign individuals seeking to purchase property in Kansas constitutes unjustifiable discrimination based on nationality. If enacted, this bill would set a dangerous precedent, potentially paving the way for even more discriminatory legislation in the future.

Furthermore, the process of obtaining a green card or U.S. citizenship for foreigners needs significant waiting periods, particularly for individuals from countries like China and India, where wait times can extend up to 5 to 10 years. During this waiting period, many individuals may establish families and seek to provide better living conditions by purchasing a house. SB446 would unjustly strip foreigners of their rightful ability to pursue homeownership, thereby thwarting their expectations for improved quality of life.

Moreover, prohibiting foreigners from purchasing property not only infringes upon their rights but also undermines the interests of Kansas as a whole. Kansas is home to a diverse population of foreigners who contribute to the state's economy through their hard work, tax contributions, and overall societal contributions. When foreigners are banned from purchasing property in Kansas, they may consider relocating to other states for better education, employment, and residency opportunities. This exodus would adversely impact various sectors of Kansas's economy, including education, hospitality, entertainment, retail, automotive, and real estate, resulting in diminished revenues across the board.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill and instead focus on policies that foster inclusivity, equality, and economic prosperity for all residents of Kansas.

Sincerely,
Li Wang