

Nemaha Co Commission approves ROZ resolution

**(KMZA)--The Nemaha County Commission has approved a resolution authorizing continued participation in the Rural Opportunity Zone Student Loan Repayment Program for 2024.**

**The commission took the action when they meet last week on an unanimous vote.**

**Representatives of the ROZ program with the Kansas Department of Commerce met with the Commission to explain the program, which allows qualified new residents of designated counties to receive state income tax waivers for up to five years and/or student loan repayments up to \$15,000.**

**Commissioners were told Nemaha County is one of 19 counties in Kansas that have seen population growth due to the program.**

**Commissioners relayed their concern that there is not enough affordable housing available in the county to handle the population growth. They also said they do not feel the program is being utilized as much as it should be by local businesses.**

**The Department of Commerce representatives said approval of the resolution allows employers in the county to use the program as a recruiting tool to attract employees. They also let commissioners know the state can assist the county in gaining and utilizing grant funding to add affordable housing and daycare in the counties local communities.**

Many Signals Communications