



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

ROBERT BAUSCH
BUSINESS MANAGER-FINANCIAL SECRETARY
PHONE: AC 785-232-1761 • 231-1491
FAX: 785-232-1791

P.O. BOX 750045
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66675-0045

TESTIMONY (Written Only) Supporting HB 2471 House Committee on Commerce, Labor & Economic Development

February 29, 2024

Subject: Support for House Bill 2471 - Powering the EV & Hydrogen Sectors

Dear Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee,

I extend my sincere gratitude for the opportunity to express our strong SUPPORT for House Bill 2471. This bill presents groundbreaking opportunities for the State of Kansas in the realm of electric-powered and hydrogen-powered passenger and freight vehicles, marking a significant leap forward in emerging technologies.

HB 2471 provides a crucial framework for incentivizing and attracting investments in the electric vehicle (EV) and hydrogen-powered vehicle industry, encompassing assembly, components, and subassembly manufacturing, as well as their respective headquarters or research and development (R&D) facilities. Kansas stands at the cusp of leading an industry undergoing rapid evolution towards electric and hydrogen-powered vehicles, and HB 2471 positions the state as a trailblazer in this transformative transition.

With over \$245 billion allocated from the federal Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act, coupled with automobile manufacturers planning over \$1.2 trillion in EV production investments by 2030, the United States is poised to be a global leader in the EV transition. Kansas has a unique opportunity to solidify its position within this landscape.

The proposed legislation outlines clear eligibility requirements, including a minimum \$250 million capital investment for vehicle assembly operations, 250 jobs within 5 years of production start, and base wages at 120% or more of the county median wage. These stipulations, coupled with meaningful clawback provisions, ensure that the benefits are earned through job creation and investment.

The inclusion of clawback provisions, triggered in cases of unmet committed capital investment or premature project abandonment, ensures accountability and safeguards the state's interests. Additionally, proportional clawbacks for employment drops below 90% of committed jobs within 15 years from project completion underscore a commitment to sustaining job growth and economic stability.

In conclusion, the passage of HB 2471 will not only enhance Kansas's standing in the rapidly evolving automotive industry but also broadcast a resounding message to the world that Kansas is open for business and poised to lead in the electric and hydrogen vehicle sectors. I wholeheartedly urge you to support and advocate for the swift passage of this bill, recognizing the substantial economic and strategic benefits it brings to our state.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I am optimistic about a prosperous future for Kansas in the dynamic landscape of the automotive industry.

Lighting the way in Kansas