



House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Written Testimony in Support of HB 2471
February 26, 2024

Dear Chairman Tarwater and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Chamber of Lawrence, please accept this written testimony in support of HB 2471-a proposal designed to attract Electric Vehicle (EV) and Hydrogen powered vehicle assembly, component subassembly manufacturing, their respective headquarters, and/or research and development operations to the State of Kansas.

Kansas can be successful in its efforts to attract significant investment in new industries that have the ability to provide quality jobs for the future, when we move swiftly and aggressively to do so. This tool, as it is proposed, exhibits a forward-looking approach towards attracting investment in innovation and the types of technologies that will drive long term economic growth for Kansas.

We appreciate the proactive focus on quality jobs, high wages, and the targeted sectors in this legislation. We are also supportive of the focus on training Kansans as part of this proposal, as this will support our existing and future workforce gaining the necessary skills for high wage Kansas careers.

We're pleased with the bill's targeting of technically advanced and growing industries, and for proactively developing this sort of tool to attract investment and opportunities in industries which are important now but will be even more critical in the future.

We urge you to support this proposed legislation and the positive impacts this tool can provide for the State of Kansas. As a state, we must continue to position ourselves to be competitive in the economy of the future and HB 2471 is the sort of initiative that does that. Thank you for your service to the State and for your thoughtful consideration of this legislation.

Respectfully,

Bonnie Lowe, IOM
President/CEO