



January 25, 2021

Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our 1,700 members, thank you for this opportunity to provide written testimony in support of H.B. 2097, decoupling the KIT and KIR workforce training programs from the high performance incentive fund program.

The Chamber applauds Kansas policymakers for their longstanding support and commitment to programs such as HPIP, KIT, and KIR. These programs make Kansas more competitive and help in our joint efforts to attract and retain job creators to our great state. However, current regulations requiring those firms seeking to utilize and benefit from the HPIP program to also use either KIT or KIR needlessly exhausts funds from the Economic Development Initiatives Fund.

It has been our experience and that of our economic development partners that most firms, larger as required by the requirements of HPIP, do not want or need to also participate in KIT or KER, but are currently forced to due to the state statute. By “decoupling” KIT and KIR from the HPIP program requirements, we believe resources would be saved and then better utilized by firms that would actually benefit from KIT and KIR.

With this in mind, we respectfully request that the Committee report H.B. 2097 favorable for passage.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce