



Greater Wichita
Partnership

**SB 282: Providing Income Tax Credits for Aerospace and
Aviation Program Graduates and their Employers**

March 19, 2021

Madam Chair Tyson and Members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee:

Thank you for including this letter of support on behalf of the **Greater Wichita Partnership** to SB 282. The Partnership is the lead public-private economic development organization serving the 10-county region of Wichita and **over 130 private-sector employers**, including the largest job-creators in the state like Spirit AeroSystems, Textron Aviation, and Cargill.

This bill will provide the aerospace industry and related companies a compelling tool to further invest in the workforce of Kansas. The Partnership joins the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and other organizations in supporting this needed tool for our economic development for three primary reasons.

- 1) **Supports Kansas' Key Industry Cluster:** The aerospace and aviation sector has been and will continue to be a key driver for our region & State's economy. Both our regional economic development plan (the Regional Growth Plan) and the State's plan (the Kansas Framework for Growth) specifically highlight the aerospace industry as key drivers for growth, jobs and investment for Kansas.
- 2) **Keeps Kansas Competitive:** As our organization can attest, many states and regions are desperately vying for Kansas' aerospace companies and workers to relocate to their state. The State of Oklahoma already has a program very similar to SB 282 and has seen gains in attracting aerospace industry workers from across the country, including some from Kansas.
- 3) **Assists Kansas in Attracting Talent:** The targeted focus of SB 282 to offset training and tuition expenses for aviation-industry workers will be a significant attraction for the over 450 aerospace industry companies in Kansas to find new talent.

On behalf of the Partnership, we **fully support SB 282 because it will aid the economic development and talent attraction efforts of Kansas.** We would be happy to provide additional information at your request.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fluhr, President
Greater Wichita Partnership