



March 24, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1,500 members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 2201; AN ACT concerning transportation; relating to the Eisenhower legacy transportation program; decreasing the threshold amount required for alternate delivery projects; providing for the usage of federal stimulus funds for certain projects; calculating KDOT bonding and debt cap authority; amending K.S.A. 68-2320 and 68-2328 and K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 68-2314c, 68-2332, and 75-5094 and repealing the existing sections.

The legislation makes several important and beneficial reforms for the I.K.E. comprehensive transportation program. These reforms include allowing federal stimulus dollars to be used on new transportation projects regardless of letting requirements for past T-Works projects, lowers the threshold from a minimum of \$100M down to \$10M for the use of alternative delivery, and includes a technical cleanup to allow the 18% debt cap to be calculated using gross revenue into the State Highway Fund instead of the current calculation based on net revenues after transfers to the State General Fund.

The Chamber supports these changes and applauds the commitment made by this legislature and the Kansas Department of Transportation. Passage of H.B. 2201 will enhance that commitment and continue to move critical transportation projects forward. Therefore, we urge the adoption of this common-sense legislation.

Thank you, and I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce