



Manhattan • Emporia • Topeka • Lawrence

A coalition of local Chambers of Commerce

Testimony in Support of SB 347
House Committee on Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development
February 1, 2022

Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee,

The Chambers of Commerce of Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka, and Lawrence (METL) express their support for Senate Bill 347 (APEX), which blends several existing incentive programs into a new, flexible tool to enable our state to compete for exceptionally large economic development projects.

As our economy recovers, we need to be aggressive in our pursuit of jobs and investment in order to come back stronger than before. The APEX program will put Kansas in position to compete for multi-billion dollar projects that we have not been able to compete for in the past. Megaprojects like this will bring thousands of good-paying jobs to our state and tens of millions of dollars in new payroll, sales, and other tax revenue.

We believe that, in order to give our state its best chance to compete for such a project, the APEX program should be given adequate time for complex negotiations. Therefore, this program should be scheduled to come before legislators again in five years, rather than just one. We would also urge you to include refundable tax credits in this program as originally proposed.

The four Chambers that make up the METL Coalition represent more than 3,000 Kansas businesses. We believe that projects of the magnitude envisioned in the APEX program will inevitably attract the attention of site selectors and industry professionals around the world. If Kansas can secure a megaproject, all of Kansas wins. As a result, we can expect many more opportunities to compete for projects of all sizes.

Please extend the sunset period to five years, add refundable tax credits back to the program, and vote to approve Senate Bill 347.

Respectfully,

METL - The Chambers of Commerce of Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka and Lawrence