

Kansas House Commerce Committee
Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 347
Attracting Powerful Economic Expansion (APEX)
Monday, January 31, 2022

Thank you, Chairman Tarwater and Members of the House Committee on Commerce for the opportunity to submit comments on SB347. On behalf of Wyandotte Economic Development Council please accept this in support of the proposed megaproject bill known as APEX (Attracting Powerful Economic Expansion) for investments of \$1 billion or greater and meeting certain criteria.

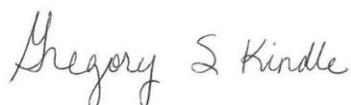
Today, there is an active \$4 billion investment considering the State of Kansas as its future home. At its core, 4,000 high wage jobs tied to the advanced manufacturing sector are to be created. Thousands more jobs are slated to be created to support the primary investment. An important element of this proposed legislation is for the tax credit to be refundable and ask that you include this in the bill.

Kansas must think outside the box and be bolder if it is to be a serious contender for this megaprojects like electric vehicle production, semiconductor chip manufacturing, and other mergers between technology and manufacturing. We must be more aggressive to compete with states like Arizona, Texas, Ohio, and Kentucky. This legislation helps bring the Framework for Growth alive. And while this project is not focused on a site in Wyandotte County it will likely impact our community as it:

- Creates good jobs paying significantly higher than the median household income of our working poor,
- Creates expanded training programs through our higher education institutions for existing workers and encourages our young people to consider advanced manufacturing as a career through their high schools,
- Sets expectations for additional investments by looking more broadly at the supply chain opportunities to continue helping the State grow beyond a single transactional relationship,
- Expands the State's footprint as a key Midwestern location for other large, advanced manufacturing investments from both existing U.S. companies and reshoring opportunities, and
- Positions the State as a contender for mega investments greater than \$1 billion while establishing development agreements and metrics to protect taxpayers.

We urge you to consider this legislation and the positive impact this kind of investment can have on the State of Kansas. Today there is an urgency related to a specific project considering our great State – there are other similar investments. We also request that this legislation be extended for a 5-year term as it takes some amount of time to develop the relationships needed for these kinds of investments to make decisions. Thank you for your service to the State and for your thoughtful consideration. If you have questions, I can be reached at gkindle@wyedc.org or by phone at 913-748-2272.

Sincerely,



President