

Written Testimony in Opposition of Senate Bill 546

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March 18, 2024

This letter is in opposition to Senate Bill 546. This bill will reverse the progress that has been made in recent years in improving the economic development incentives available across the State of Kansas. Kansas has gone from one of the least competitive states in the Midwest to the state that has been identified as one of the top states for economic growth. These programs that would be eliminated are a key part of the economic development toolbox that communities both large and small have the ability to use for the benefit for both existing and new companies across Kansas creating good paying jobs.

Within Salina and Saline County we have had a dozen companies use the HPIP program this past year and one company has used the PEAK program. The sales tax exemption available as part of the HPIP program allows both local and state programs to work together to assist companies to reduce their construction costs which has significantly increased over the past several years. This tool would be eliminated by SB 546.

One of our companies that has multiple locations in Kansas will be attending today's hearing. Their review of this bill sees the elimination of several million dollars of benefits to their operations due to SB 546. Other local companies are opposing this bill with a letter from the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce.

This year I am serving as President of the Kansas Economic Development Alliance. Our organization members cover this state from border to border. From the smallest communities to our major metros. You will be hearing from several of our members opposing this bill today and reading their letters. With the passage of SB 546 these key tools will be eliminated causing Kansas to step backwards in this very competitive and ever-changing economic development environment. We encourage the Senate Tax Committee to vote down SB 546 for the benefit to Kansas communities and existing Kansas industries.