



**Overland  
Park  
Chamber™**

**To: Senator Caryn Tyson and Members of the Senate Committee on  
Assessment and Taxation**  
**From: Kevin Walker, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce**  
**Date: 19 March 2024**

Senator Tyson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to SB 546.

The bill, as written, would discontinue the High-Performance Incentive Program (HPIP) and the Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) program effective 1 July 2024. These programs support business recruitment *and* retention. Growing businesses already located in Kansas find the programs of value. Nine existing companies in Overland Park have used these programs to add jobs and investment in our state within just the past six months.

According to a January 2023 report by Legislative Post Audit, PEAK benefits created an estimated total return of \$4.99 for every dollar invested, while HPIP generated \$3.26 in total returns for every \$1 invested. Additionally, when estimating the economic impact for the state, PEAK produced \$4.54 in estimated impact for every dollar invested, and HPIP's return was \$2.91 per dollar invested. This is a robust and positive return on investment for both programs.

We have supported legislative efforts to review and improve incentive programs and will continue to do so. Kansas has many attractive features that allow us to compete for jobs and investment, but every state is offering incentives—even states with corporate income tax rates lower than ours. From a business attraction and recruitment perspective, companies look for incentives and use the lack of them as a reason to cross states off their list. Economic development is a global game, and Kansas must be able to compete.

While the bill also cuts the corporate income tax – a change we would support – without a fiscal note available by the deadline for testimony, it is impossible to assess how these changes would impact the state's ability to deliver essential services. We believe

there is a way for the state to enact fiscally responsible cuts and still offer incentives that allow Kansas to be competitive with other states in economic development.

We are happy to work with the committee to improve our incentives and make Kansas more attractive to new employers and those already invested in the state.