



**Senate Commerce Committee
Written Testimony in Support
Submitted by Tim McKee, CEO
April 26, 2023**

Chairman Erickson and honorable committee members,

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in Johnson County and the second largest chamber in the Kansas City area. Comprised of 1,300 members and growing, it was the first chamber in the state to receive 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce - a designation obtained by less than 1 percent of the nation's chambers. Its mission is to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.

As the CEO of the Olathe Chamber, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of the Department of Commerce's bill to attract Electric Vehicle (EV) and Hydrogen powered vehicle assembly, component/subassembly manufacturers, their respective headquarters or research & development facilities. In a global competitive market, Kansas must work smarter and be more innovative if it is going to attract quality development.

This proposal is uniquely tailored requiring a \$250 million minimum investment for assembly operations, at least 250 jobs within 5 years of start, base wages of 120% or more of county median wage, project competition within 5 years of start. In addition, there is abatement of taxes on construction materials used in the building, renovation or expansion of a qualifying activity. There is training assistance capped at \$5 million per project for community college or technical schools. There are also refundable capital tax credits and up to 100% of employee payroll withholding up to 10 years as determined by the Secretary.

We would encourage the legislature to act swiftly on adopting this tool for economic growth in our state. Kansas over the last 30 years has not had the job or population growth of some of our neighboring states. Let us build on and grow this sector that we have now started to cultivate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of this EV and Hydrogen powered vehicle assembly. I would be happy to visit with any of you regarding our support of these new incentives and the impact we believe it will have on our Olathe community and the state of Kansas.

Tim McKee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim McKee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim McKee, CEO
Olathe Chamber of Commerce