



Wichita Independent Business Association

THE VOICE OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

February 6, 2013

**Written Testimony Presented to the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee
in support of HB 2124**

By Tim Witsman, President

Chairman Kleeb and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the HB 2124. The Wichita Independent Business Association (WIBA) has represented Kansas businesses for 81 years. WIBA membership ranges from the individual sole proprietor operating a home-based business to large corporations with thousands of employees. WIBA has almost 500 member businesses from Wichita and throughout the state and represents more than 250 industries.

While the legislature has taken action to help the UI trust fund over the past few years, these changes are not long-term solutions to the structural deficiencies. When the current rate caps are removed in 2014, Kansas employers will carry the burden of paying the increased assessments, which we understand will be close to \$90 million. While the economy is slowly rebounding, we need to be careful to not overburden and cripple the recovery. As stewards of the Kansas Unemployment Insurance System, we urge you consider all options to shore up the fund and bring equity back to the system.

As such, the members of WIBA support the provisions set out in HB 2124 because we believe it will take more than just employer contributions to stabilize the fund. We look forward to working with the members of this committee and other stakeholders on HB 2124 and support the positive impact this bill will have on small businesses in Kansas.

House Commerce & Economic
Development Committee
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