

**House Committee on Taxation
House Bill 2392
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**



Thursday, March 12, 2015

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in opposition to House Bill 2392.

In December, the Kansas Chamber Board of Directors unanimously approved our 2015 Legislative Agenda which specifically states our position to “oppose any attempts to roll back the tax cuts of 2012 & 2013” and “reduce government spending instead of increasing the cost of doing business through tax increases.”

The Kansas Chamber remains a strong advocate of the tax cuts passed by the legislature and supports efforts to continue with statutory reductions in income taxes. Unfortunately, the tax cuts of 2012 and 2013 were not accompanied by sufficient reductions in government spending which resulted in the draw-down of cash reserves and a budget deficit next fiscal year.

The tax cuts passed by the legislature are working. This committee recently heard testimony from the Department of Revenue that small business income growth has surpassed neighboring states, and ranks fourth in the nation since the first quarter of 2013. Additionally, Kansas ranks 10th in the nation in private average job gains/quarter since 2013 according to the U.S. DOL Bureau of Labor Statistics.

We respectfully ask the legislature to fully consider a balanced budget based on existing resources before resorting to increasing the burden on Kansas taxpayers. Until we have a clear picture of what the budget looks like after reductions in spending, we cannot accurately say what additional revenue, if any, is needed.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak in opposition to House Bill 2392 and I would be happy to answer any questions.



The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the leading statewide pro-business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.