

**House Committee on Taxation  
House Bill 2427  
Motor Fuel Tax Increase  
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**



**Tuesday, May 5, 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 2427 which, among several other changes, temporarily adds a \$.05 per gallon motor fuel tax on gasoline and dyed fuel used for non-highway purposes.

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.”

Additionally, the Kansas Chamber conducts an annual poll of 300 business leaders from across the state. These businesses are both members and non-members, and also reflect a geographical representation of the business community in our state by size and industry. The results from the December 2014 survey came back showing 74% of respondents would like to see state government cut at least 5% from state spending before considering tax increases. 50% think at least 10% of spending should be cut before tax increases are considered and 28% say taxes should never be raised.

Again, we respectfully ask the legislature 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 provide testimony in opposition to House Bill 2427.



*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.*