



**Testimony before House Federal & State Affairs Committee  
HCR 5003 – Regulation Freedom Amendment  
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

**January 24, 2017**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The Kansas Chamber is pleased to submit written testimony in support of HCR 5003, which urges Congress to propose the regulation freedom amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This proposal fits squarely within our Board approved Legislative Agenda for 2017. Our organization supports free enterprise and supports a regulatory climate that promotes a healthy business climate and instills regulatory certainty through policies that:

- **Defend the rights of business and industry from burdensome state and federal regulations.**

We applaud the U.S. House of Representatives for its bipartisan support of the REINS Act to require Congress to approve significant federal regulations before they can take effect but prefer that such protection be made absolute within the U.S. Constitution. Constitutional amendments should be rarely considered and only under extreme conditions.

We respectfully submit that the unprecedented level of use of federal regulations to circumvent Congress over the past eight years in particular qualifies as extreme circumstances warranting Constitutional protection of American citizens and entities affected by overreaching regulations that threaten the economic fabric of our country.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments in support of HCR 5003 and we are happy to answer any questions you might have.



*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.*