



TESTIMONY (Written Only) Supporting HB 2471

House Committee on Commerce, Labor & Economic Development

By Andy Sanchez, Executive Secretary-Treasurer

KANSAS AFL-CIO

February 29, 2024

Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee, thank you for this opportunity to share our **SUPPORT** on HB 2471. The bill seeks groundbreaking opportunities for the State of Kansas in the emerging technology of electric powered and hydrogen powered passenger and freight vehicles.

As a state, our ability to incentivize the growth of this industry means significant opportunities lie ahead for our members and the rest of the citizens of Kansas, for perhaps generations. It is our understanding that \$250 Million capital investment is being requested with some guarantees of 250 jobs, with a base wage of 120% or more of the county median wage. Our ability to provide jobs for our members and their families must come through this legislature. That invaluable partnership of government, business and labor will allow all involved the ability to provide opportunities for Kansans to prosper. This is exactly the type of collaboration we as a state should be doing to provide a future for Kansas' workforce.

At our most fundamental mission is our ability to make quality training available and this solidifies our support when the bill enables no-cost opportunities that provide training utilizing yet another partnership of our Community and Technical College base. Since our organization is made up of both manufacturing and construction, it is particularly appealing that the legislation encompasses both sectors.

Specific details of the plan show the foresight of commitment with this training, capital investment, proactive tax incentives, and finally, accountability through clawback provisions.

On behalf of the 75,000 members we represent, we believe HB 2471 can boost our local and our state economy and provide a bright future of hope for working families and businesses. The Kansas AFL-CIO works hard to improve the quality of life for Kansas' workers. We know, as lawmakers you have those same objectives of showing the rest of the country that Kansas can be their home, and you can support and raise a family here.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2471. Economic growth can only come from investment in its people. We wholeheartedly support HB 2471 as accomplishing this and respectfully encourage your support.