

Andrew Nave, EVP-Economic Development Greater Wichita Partnership (316) 500-6650 andrew@greaterwichitapartnership.org

February 28, 2025

Chairman Tarwater and Members of the House Commerce, Labor, & Economic Development Committee:

I am writing in strong support of HB 2308, the proposed **AIM-K** (**Aviation and Innovation Manufacturing in Kansas**) incentive program. This bill will enhance our state's ability to attract investment and family-supporting job creation in our state's most established competitive industry- aerospace and the burgeoning industries of manufacturing Innovation.

The Greater Wichita Partnership is the primary regional economic development organization in south-central Kansas. Our 10-county region encompasses the vast majority of the state's more than 30,000 aerospace workforce and the more than 400 aviation-industry-related companies. This has led to Kansas earning the moniker of The Air Capital of the World (www.aircapitaloftheworld.com).

The Greater Wichita Partnership supports AIM-K because:

- > Increased Competitiveness: The Partnership has competed on nearly three dozen aerospace industry projects over the last five years. Lack of compelling incentives have been a reason projects have chosen other states (i.e. Joby in Ohio, Boom in North Carolina).
- > **Supply-Chain Alignment:** The unique feature of the **"Kansas First" provision** will enhance our state's existing advantage of a deep, diverse, and dependable aerospace supply chain while expanding the benefit of the AIM-K program further across the state.
- ➤ Wise Stewardship: This bill includes robust safeguards and claw back provisions to protect our state's investment and financial capacity for existing taxpayers and employers.

I **urge you to support HB 2308** and advance this important new incentive tool for our state. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Nave, CEcD

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**Greater Wichita Partnership** 

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