



March 3, 2025

Representative Sean Tarwater, Chairman  
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development  
Kansas House of Representatives  
Capital Building  
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Representative Tarwater and Committee Members:

This letter is in support of House Bill 2308 Aviation and Innovation Manufacturing in Kansas incentive program (AIM-K). As an economic development professional with over 40 years of service in economic development and eight years working in Kansas it is a critically important piece of legislation that could greatly expand Kansas's current standing within the aviation arena as well as other targeted sectors. Kansas has had tremendous success for many years and this program would provide a new tool that would continue job growth across Kansas.

In addition to the Wichita community the AIM-K program could impact a broad range of areas including the Salina community which is home to Kansas State Salina Aerospace and Technology Campus. This university has an outstanding aviation program which has made Salina well known for its aviation activities in both manned and unmanned programs. With the new campus projects that will start construction this year the AIM-K program will make Salina an even more attractive location for new aviation as well as other companies considering Kansas.

As proposed this program has numerous requirements that companies must complete prior to receiving the benefits available from this program. Investments over \$250 million, at least 250 jobs within 5 years of the start of the project, and base wages at 100% or more of the county median wage. One unique aspect is that if the expanding companies use existing Kansas suppliers, they can receive additional benefits creating new or retaining existing Kansas jobs. This program could become the most valuable tool within Kansas's economic development toolbox. If I can answer any questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Mitch Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

D. Mitch Robinson, CECD  
Executive Director  
Salina Community E.D.O.