

House Commerce Committee Written Only Testimony Supporting HB 2308 March 3, 2025 Civic Council of Greater Kansas City

The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, composed of the leadership of the region's largest private employers, supports HB 2308 which would enact the aviation and innovative manufacturing in Kansas act.

The Civic Council believes that this bill is a powerful next step in building on the success of APEX and broadening economic opportunities and manufacturing growth in key sectors that support U.S. national security. APEX has already made a significant impact in Kansas, attracting large-scale economic development and high-paying jobs. The HB 2308 proposal will create a new economic development incentive tailored to the aviation and innovative manufacturing will allow the state and region to expand this opportunity further and strengthen our identity as an aviation state.

As the aviation industry continues to grow at a rapid pace, the State of Kansas has an unprecedented opportunity to position itself as a center of this industry, which is an attractive market for high-skilled and high-salaried jobs. The Civic Council has been a staunch supporter of fiscally responsible and data-informed use of incentives and believes this legislation fits the model of smart-use of government incentives to attract high-demand industry, high-wage jobs and foster much-needed growth.

The Civic Council urges legislators to support HB 2308 because capital investment, job creation and infrastructure enhancements will make Kansas globally competitive in this new industrial economy.

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