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February 10, 2025

Dear Chairman Tarwater and Members of the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development,

On behalf of Kansas City Area Development Council, I am writing to express our strong and urgent support for **HB 2308 – AIM-K Act**. This bill represents a decisive opportunity for the Kansas City region to remain competitive in the national and global race for business attraction and investment. Without this incentive tool, we risk losing high-impact projects to other states and international cities aggressively pursuing the same opportunities. Recent similar bills like APEX have proved critical to winning projects with promise to be life changing for the residents of Kansas.

The global landscape for advanced manufacturing and transportation innovation is evolving rapidly, particularly in aerospace, as well as other legacy industries for Kansas City. Companies in these industries are making large, strategic investments in new facilities and technology – investments that will define the future of economic growth. **The AIM-K Act is critical to ensuring that Kansas is positioned not just to compete on the world-wide stage, but to win these transformative projects.**

Our pipeline for the Kansas City region mirrors Kansas' business recruitment pipeline with nearly 60% of our projects focused on advanced manufacturing, innovative technologies, and headquarter operations. The AIM-K Act offers the right combination of competitive incentives, and meaningful benefits for companies and communities alike with the balance of accountability measures in place to ensure responsible use of taxpayer dollars. This program's payroll tax incentives, capital investment tax credits, and no-cost workforce training are precisely the tools we need to continue to attract large-scale investments.

The time to act is now. Other states and international markets are offering increasingly aggressive incentives to secure these same projects. Kansas cannot afford to fall behind. This legislation will signal to the business community that Kansas is serious about competing on a global scale and open for business. The AIM-K Act will give Kansas and the KC region the edge it needs to continue to compete for game-changing investments that will create quality jobs, build wealth for our citizens, expand the tax base, and cement our position as a leader in the economy of the future. We urge your support for this legislation to secure the economic prosperity of Kansas for decades to come.

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Cowden', written over a light gray circular background.

Tim Cowden
President & CEO
Kansas City Area Development Council
816-591-1874

