



March 4, 2025
HOUSE BILL 2308
Proponent testimony
Oral in-person testimony

Chairman Tarwater, Vice Chair Turk, Ranking Member Clayton, and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon. Thank you for providing us an opportunity to testify as a proponent of House Bill 2308 that would support the aviation and advanced manufacturing industries in Kansas through enhancements to current economic incentive programs available within the State of Kansas. If enacted, this bill would help the State compete for projects involving significant capital investments in Kansas along with the creation of new, high-paying jobs.

My name is Sam Sackett. I am representing Spirit AeroSystems and our Wichita manufacturing operations. As the largest private-sector employer in Kansas, Spirit is proud to employ more than 12,000 people in the state. Our highly skilled employees engineer, design, and build complex aerostructures for both commercial and defense customers.

Our purpose in testifying on behalf of House Bill 2308 is driven by our desire to ensure the State has economic development tools necessary to compete for projects, particularly in the advanced manufacturing sector, as other states and countries aggressively seek to attract businesses to relocate or expand in other regions.

House Bill 2308 proposes to target large projects with a minimum requirement of \$250 million in capital investment along with 250 or more jobs created within the first five years. The AIM-K proposal would build on the State's reputation as the Air Capital of the World and proposes a performance-based approach.

To be eligible for the economic incentives, businesses must perform. Without the capital investments required and without the new jobs created, the bill contains clawback provisions.

We respectfully urge the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development to advance the AIM-K proposal in support of the aviation and advanced manufacturing industries that would generate new employment opportunities for Kansas workers.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify. I look forward to answering your questions.