

2/17/2025

## **HB 2373-Firefirghers Memorial**

### **House Federal and State Affairs Committee**

Dear Members of the Kansas Legislature,

As President of Wichita Local 135, I am writing to express our strong support for Wichita as the home of the Kansas State Firefighters Memorial. As a centrally located city with a deep history of honoring our firefighters, Wichita is the ideal location to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have dedicated their lives protecting communities all over Kansas. We are excited and motivated to assure this project honors Kansas firefighters and their families while giving a place for the community to gather and celebrate.

However, I would like to recommend an amendment to the agreement or proposed bill that ensures the formation of an updated and inclusive board. It is essential that the board overseeing the proposed Kansas State Firefighters Memorial reflect the local representation of Wichita by including appointed members from the area. Local board members would provide invaluable insight, ensuring that the memorial is properly maintained, promoted, and integrated into the Wichita community in a way that honors its significance.

Updating the board membership to include Wichita representatives will foster local engagement, and strengthen collaboration between city officials, members of the fire department and organizations that support firefighters and their families. Additionally, these changes will ensure that the memorial receives the necessary care and attention it deserves while upholding its mission to recognize the service and sacrifice of Kansas firefighters.

Thank you for your service and consideration of this important matter. I appreciate your dedication to honoring our state's firefighters, and I look forward to seeing Wichita serve as the proud home of the Kansas State Firefighters Memorial.

Sincerely,

Ted Bush

Wichita Firefighters

Local 135 President