

Testimony to Kansas House Committee on Taxation Support of HB 2038 February 5, 2025 The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber), representing approximately 2,000 members (40% of which are in Kansas) supports HB 2038 which enacts the Kansas film and digital media production act. The KC Chamber supports policies that promote a pro-business environment and investments in economic development in the Kansas City region and our state.

The KC Chamber, representing nearly 2,000 businesses and 300,000 employees, and its Board of Directors, has identified workforce development as a critical and immediate need in our region. HB 2038 is the same bill the 2024 House passed 102-22 and the Senate passed 32-5.

We believe HB 2038 will make Kansas more competitive for film and media productions, which will help with much needed workforce development and job creation while also bringing in revenue into our state. Kansas is one of only 13 states without a film tax incentive and with the passage of HB 2038 we will be able to compete and land film and tv projects from around the country.

Right now, three of our neighboring states have similar legislation to HB 2038 – Missouri, Oklahoma, and Colorado. Oklahoma has seen over \$140 million in film expenditures, 6,348 new hires, and \$40.7 million in wages in FY22 because of its film incentive program. Similar legislation has been introduced in Nebraska. Missouri passed its legislation two years ago and is already seeing TV movies being filmed there. Passing HB 2038 will allow us to compete with our neighbors. HB 2038 will open Kansas for opportunities that are already sitting on the table and will allow us to highlight the great talents that come from our state.

The KC Chamber believes that this is a targeted but critical part of the overall workforce solution facing the state and region and is an issue that is expected only to grow in importance. The KC Chamber supports HB 2038 and looks forward to working with the various stakeholders on this important issue.

Katrina Abraham Government Affairs, Kansas The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce kabraham@kcchamber.com 816-308-0544