

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5
WRITTEN ONLY
OPPONENT TESTIMONY SB283

Madam Chair and Committee Members, thank you for allowing us to provide testimony today. Our four-community coalition, representing Manhattan, Emporia, Topeka and Lawrence, are writing today to voice concern over SB283. United we represent the interests of nearly 3,500 business and 600,000 in our respective communities.

While this bill has several components that would offer tax relief, we are specifically speaking about the Promoting Employment Across Kansas Program and the job creation program fund. We believe this measure would have a significant impact on our economic development activities, as it specifically targets two tools used for the advancement of our communities. Through the HPIP program alone we have 74 active approved projects. When local economic development entities work to serve existing and new businesses, we leverage resources to help them in their growth, carefully measuring the ROI expected. Taking these two tools away will reduce our ability to mitigate the cost of doing business for them resulting in either a delayed or no growth scenario.

As economic development organizations and chambers of commerce, we focus on improving the economic and employment conditions in our area. And thereby, the quality of life for all our community members. We are aware of the need to constantly assess the benefits of any state program and adjust as necessary. However, we strongly urge the committee to reflect on changes to these programs. Instead of discontinuing them altogether, we urge the committee to revise program criteria to meet standards that the body feels most aligned with the purpose of such economic development tools.

Thank you for taking our position into full consideration, we encourage the committee to elect not to move SB283 forward as written.

Respectfully submitted by:

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President
Greater Topeka Chamber
On Behalf of M.E.T.L. Coalition



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A coalition of local Chambers of Commerce