



March 4, 2025

Kansas Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation  
Kansas State Capitol  
300SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: SB283 concerns.

Dear Senator:

I operate a manufacturing company in Kansas which has been home to this company since 1965. We have been blessed and had continued growth and expanded into three separate facilities located in Sterling and Lyons, (both in Rice County), as well as Great Bend (in Barton County).

However, our growth has become more than we can support with our current facilities and about 200 team members over the last couple years, Thus, we have decided to build a new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and headquarters in the USA. That facility will be over 430,000 square feet and will add an additional 250 new employees to our team.

We had many very strong incentives from other states to be the home of our new facility and add the approximate 450 in new employment that it would bring them. We did consider Kansas as well of course since it is home, but we were not aware of the HPIP, and PEAK, and similar programs so it was just not competitive with the other states incentives and offers to move our business out of Kansas.

We did then reach out to the City of Sterling, KS and the department of commerce (Marla Canfield - Business Development Project Manager -South Central) to make sure that there were not incentives that we were not aware of that needed to be considered as well in our decision. The programs Marla explained to us that Kansas had available, (HPIP, PEAK, and others) helped make Kansas more competitive. However, there was still a notable gap. The KS Secretary of Commerce David Tolland also became involved and helped wrap up the deal through the use of the JCF program which allowed us to proudly announce that we were going to remain in Kansas and expand with a brand-new state of the art facility right here in Rice County with all the new jobs and economic impact that it would bring to the area and state. Without these programs, we found that Kansas was not competitive on our project and we most likely would have been planning our move to another state.

We are planning to start construction this summer, however the loss of these programs which if I understand correctly is being proposed in SB283 would cause very serious problems. I truly hope that the State of Kansas would rather try and retain and grow businesses in Kansas through the use of these programs than risk losing it to others that are actively pursuing economic and employment growth in their states and regions.

Best Regards,

Wayne Buchberger  
Managing Director and CEO  
KMW Ltd.