



House Bill 2336 Support

Written Testimony submitted to the
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

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Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

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Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce expresses its support for House Bill 2336, which increases the bonding authority of certain public airport authorities from one million dollars to \$10,000,000.

The Topeka Chamber is part of a constellation of organizations dedicated to growing the economy in Topeka and Shawnee County and to making the future of our community more prosperous. Few of the economic assets in Topeka pack as much potential for development as Topeka Regional Airport and Business Center; known to most Topekans simply as Forbes Field. Leaders across the community have coalesced around the vision of Forbes as a thriving industrial center for avionics, advanced manufacturing or any of the numerous other high technology sectors which could take advantage of Forbes' inherent attributes. Forbes has an important collaborative role to play alongside similar major aviation assets in Wichita and Salina to make Kansas the center of these exciting and high-paying new industries.

The airport authority, however, is stymied in its efforts to fully develop Forbes by the current 1978 statute which limits its presumptive general obligation bonding authority to one million dollars. House Bill 2336 modernizes this limit by raising it to ten million dollars. This new flexibility will enable the authority to fund needed infrastructure updates and move Forbes aggressively into the future.

We support House Bill 2336 and urge the Committee to do so. Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

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