

PROPONENT TESTIMONY – WRITTEN ONLY



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TO: Rep. Sean Tarwater, Chairperson
Members, House Commerce Committee

FROM: Ashley Sherard, CEO
Lenexa Chamber of Commerce

DATE: February 29, 2024

RE: Support for HB 2471 – Incentive Program to Attract Additional EV
Industry Investment

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for HB 2471, legislation that would create incentives aimed at attracting additional investment in Kansas by EV and hydrogen-powered auto manufacturers.

Among its eligibility criteria, the incentive program would require qualifying projects to create and retain at least 250 new good-paying jobs and for vehicle assembly development to invest at least \$250 million. The competition among states to attract projects of this scale, particularly in emerging growth industries like EV and hydrogen-powered vehicle production that are being spurred on by federal investment, is intense.

Because many other states are approaching these projects with aggressive incentives, the practical reality is that to remain in contention Kansas also needs a specific program dedicated to their attraction. Projects that meet the specific parameters outlined in HB 2471 won't come around every day, but when they do, this program would ensure Kansas has a seat at the table and can compete with anyone, providing millions of dollars in capital investment and hundreds of jobs should Kansas be the choice.

HB 2471 would add another tool to Kansas's economic development toolbox and allow the state to better leverage the global attention it has garnered from landing the Panasonic EV project into additional economic growth for our state. We appreciate your consideration and urge you to consider HB 2471 favorably for passage.