



**Testimony to House Committee on Commerce
Support of HB2471**

Thursday, February 29th 2024

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce and Civic Council of Greater Kansas City

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce (KC Chamber), representing approximately 2,000 members (40% of which are in Kansas) and the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City (Civic Council), representing CEOs of the region's largest private employers, supports HB 2471 which would enact the Transformation of Passenger and Freight Vehicle Industry Act.

The KC Chamber and Civic Council believes that this bill is a powerful next step in building on the success of APEX and broadening opportunities and growth related to vehicle manufacturing. The State of Kansas has already seen the strong impact of APEX in attracting large-scale economic development and high-wage jobs to the state. The KC Chamber and Civic Council believes HB 2471's proposal to create a new economic development incentive tailored to electric vehicle and hydrogen powered vehicle assembly will allow the state and region to expand this opportunity further and strengthen our identity as an electric vehicle manufacturing and assembly cluster.

As the electric vehicle industry grows at a rapid pace, the State of Kansas has an unprecedented opportunity to position itself as a center for this industry and a very attractive market for the industry's high-skilled and well-paying jobs. The KC Chamber has been a staunch supporter of fiscally responsible and data-informed use of incentives and believes this legislation fits the model of smart-use of government incentives to attract high-demand industry, high-wage jobs and foster much-needed growth.

The KC Chamber and Civic Council supports HB 2471 to attract industry, jobs, and economic growth for the State of Kansas. Together, we urge support for capital investment, job creation and infrastructure enhancements to not only make Kansas attractive among other states, but to make Kansas globally competitive in a 21st Century economy.

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