



February 13, 2023

Mister Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1,500 members, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of H.B. 2182, AN ACT concerning economic development; enacting the Kansas film and digital media production development act; establishing an income tax credit, sales tax exemption and loan and grant program to be administered by the secretary of commerce for the purpose of developing film, video or digital production in Kansas establishing the Kansas film and digital media production development education fund and the Kansas film and digital media production development act workforce training and business direct investment fund.

H.B. 2182 would create a film tax incentive that would act as a much-needed economic development tool to help make Kansas a competitor in the film and media production industry. This legislation would result in a promotion of tourism through a showcase of Kansas' unique and breathtaking landscape as well as millions of dollars being spent in our state. Right now, the only surrounding states with incentive programs for film projects on the books are Oklahoma and Colorado. Oklahoma saw over \$140 million in film expenditures, 6,348 new hires, and \$40.7 million in wages in FY22 because of their film incentive program. H.B. 2182 would position Kansas to compete with those two states while getting a head start on Nebraska and Missouri.

Currently, Kansas is not being considered for projects because of our unfavorable business environment for film and media. We are only one of thirteen states without any film tax incentives and thus are not a viable solution even though our state provides the perfect landscape for many of these productions. Yahoo News has called Westerns "The Newest Land of Opportunity on TV." Why can't Kansas be the next state to take advantage of this resurgence of Westerns in the TV landscape?

We believe that H.B. 2182 truly positions Kansas to begin to become a world class location for film and media, while also showcasing our beautiful landscape for all to see. This film tax incentive indicates to the film industry that Kansas is open for business and a true player for these productions moving forward. Therefore, we ask that the Committee report H.B. 2182 favorable for passage.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins