



March 20, 2024

Testimony in Opposition to SB 546

Senate Assessment & Taxation Committee

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Executive Director, Shawnee Economic Development Council

Chairman Tyson and Members of the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee.

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to share my professional opinion on SB 546. As the President & CEO of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce and as the Executive Director of the Shawnee Economic Development Council, I would like to express my opposition for SB 546.

As Kansas continues to set records as it relates to new economic development projects resulting in greater investment in our state and positive outcomes for its citizens it is even more crucial than ever to continue to invest in growing the economy for the entire state. The policies set forth in SB 546 will have detrimental effects on economic development professionals to attract new business to the state as well as assist current Kansas businesses to grow. In the community of Shawnee alone, we have seen the benefit of utilizing these incentives to attract and grow such businesses as PBI Gordon, TriRX, Schier Products and Harold Payne Plastics. Not only do these businesses provide quality jobs to Kansas residents, they pay local and state taxes and support multiple civic and non-profit endeavors – all moving us towards a stronger and more prosperous community.

Additionally, we need to maintain our economic development tools and advantages so that we can be more competitive with other states, including Missouri where we continue to lose projects based solely on the fact of more aggressive economic incentives. The simple fact of economic development is in today's global economy we are competing consistently with regions and states that are continually upping their commitment to attract companies with this type of qualifying investment. If the State of Kansas does not keep pace and keep competitive, we are simply not going to be at the table when the crucial deals are put together and major expansions decided.

I encourage and ask for your support in opposing this legislation so that we will be able to continue to support our existing businesses and attract new businesses that will favorably impact our state for years to come and help us all to build a stronger and sounder Kansas economy for us all.