



Statement in Support of SB 91  
Thursday, February 2, 2023  
Senate Commerce Committee

The Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas is pleased to voice its support for the passage of Senate Bill 91, which would provide filmmaking incentives in our state.

As one of just a few states that do not offer film incentives to production companies, Kansas is missing an opportunity. Film incentives would enable Kansas to compete for economic growth in the film industry across the state. In Lawrence, for example, there are many small businesses working in the film industry that routinely travel outside of the state to make their living in the film production arena. Respected cinematographers like Jeremy Osbern, Tony Ontiveros, and Mark Havener, and postproduction companies like Sam Billen's Post Haus are great examples of small businesses that would benefit greatly from this incentive. Moreover, the state wins when these businesses do business in Kansas. This incentive would also bring incremental revenue to the very industries that were hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic - our hotels, restaurants, and retailers.

Due to its vibrant arts and culture scene, a storied history of community filmmaking by the likes of Kevin Wilmott, and its proximity to Kansas City International Airport and rural locations, Lawrence is an attractive option for location scouts to headquarter. The University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence would also benefit from the workforce development component of this legislation. We believe Lawrence could leverage this incentive and make a greater contribution to our state's economy.

The Chamber of Lawrence is also pleased to be joined by fellow members of the METL Coalition (Manhattan, Emporia, and Topeka Chambers of Commerce) in support of this legislation. The 3,880 Kansas jobs currently supported by the film industry could grow significantly, as this measure would incentivize national and local production, grow local resources and production capacity, and create an environment to keep and grow talent, expand programs, and grow the technological knowledge base. Please vote to approve Senate Bill 91.

Hugh Carter  
Vice President, External Affairs