



**Senate Committee on Commerce**

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 325**

**Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

**Tuesday, April 26, 2023**

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 325 which would establish the transformation of passenger and freight vehicle industry act.

SB 325 would establish a new economic development incentive program building on the APEX plan passed in 2022 to bring the Panasonic electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility to the state of Kansas. SB 325 creates a new program specific to that industry to attract further investment through a program that blends provisions of the states PEAK and HPIP programs into one. Eligible businesses would receive sales tax exemptions for the construction of a facility, allows the employer to retain up to 100% of withholding taxes, offers training incentives, and 10% investment tax credits.

With the successful effort to attract the investment of Panasonic for such an expansive facility in Kansas, SB 325 creates a program to continue to attract further investment by other companies in this field. The potential impact of this could see Kansas become the North American “hub” of EV/battery technology companies.

As we have continued to advocate, our great state needs to continue to improve its competitive position in many areas to attract new jobs and investment. As our state becomes more competitive, we will see the positive impact on the state. But we need more private sector investment, and this program taps new potential for our state to become *THE* leader in the modernization of transportation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 325, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.