



April 25, 2023

The Honorable Renee Erickson, Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce:

The Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission (SEKRPC) is a member association comprised of the 12 counties of Southeast Kansas. As an organization of economic development professionals, county commissioners, and municipalities, we believe that strong state economic development tools are critical to our state's ability to provide the sort of economic environment that is so vital for business growth, retention, and recruitment.

The programs that currently exist in the Kansas economic tool set, primarily administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce, have been a major factor in our state's economic success and in our ability to grow employment and train employees. Our economic development programs and processes, like any such programs, require periodic evaluation to ensure that program objectives are being met, that our programs operate efficiently, and that they are effectively administered. SEKRPC supports the regular evaluation of our economic development programs and supports measures that yield confidence and trust in our incentive programs and their delivery and attractiveness to which Kansas is represented.

The transformation of passenger and freight vehicle industry act is a measure that strikes a reasonable balance between competitiveness, accountability, transparency, and doing what is best for the economic future of Kansas. This bill represents collaboration and compromise by all parties statewide, resulting in a legislative product that provides Kansas necessary tools needed to go after such projects that will forever change the economic landscape of Kansas, both in the metro and rural landscapes.

The Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission encourages the Senate Committee on Commerce to support this act. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Department of Commerce, and other agencies as appropriate, to enhance programming while ensuring the accountability of existing economic development programs.

We support this act and ask that you act favorably on the bill. For more information, please contact: Taylor Hogue, Deputy Director, (620) 431-0080 or [taylor@sekrpc.org](mailto:taylor@sekrpc.org)