



WICHITA METRO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 19, 2013

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce and our over 1,700 members, thank you for the opportunity to communicate with the Committee regarding HB 2241.

The Wichita Chamber represents businesses of all sizes and from all sectors, predominately from south central Kansas. The south central Kansas economy is largely a manufacturing based economy. Wichita is the Air Capital of the World and, among other things; we build end export aircraft to all regions of the globe. Manufacturing jobs in our region are high paying jobs with benefits that rival any trade or profession in the United States.

The recent economic downturn, from which we are just now climbing out of, reduced employment in our region by over 30,000 jobs related directly or indirectly to aviation manufacturing alone. Many of these jobs have yet to return and the people impacted by these job losses are still looking to recover themselves. Job creation and improving the business environment in Kansas are key areas of focus for the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce.

Requirements by the state of Kansas to increase the amount of renewable energy being produced by the state's energy companies, while laudable, are a concern to our manufacturing based job creators. In an ultra competitive business environment that knows no state or national boundaries, any regulation that increases the cost of doing business is of concern to our membership. The Kansas Renewable Energy Portfolio requirements certainly have lead to increased costs for manufacturers. With this in mind, we are supportive of any initiative that reduces regulation and lowers associated energy costs.

Best regards,

Jason Watkins
Director of Government Relations