



Testimony to House Taxation Committee
Opposing HB 2136
The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Robert Vancrum, Legislative Policy and Government Affairs Consultant
February 14, 2013

Chairman Carlson and Other Honorable Representatives:

The Greater Kansas City Chamber has nearly 2,500 members, 40% of which are in Kansas. One of the priority issues addressed in the Chamber's 2013 Kansas Public Policy Agenda is to support a sound transportation infrastructure and preservation of the funding of the 2010 T-Works program. For years the Chamber's annual survey of its members has shown that investment in transportation infrastructure is a priority for our members as they plan for expansion or relocation of business operations.

The KC Chamber is opposed to the transfer of the 4/10th cent earmarked for the Kansas Highway Fund for the T-Works program. The Chamber also believes there could be serious ramifications in even considering this bill, which moves that revenue stream from the State Highway Fund to the State General Fund. Respected bond rating services such as Moody's already have had the Highway Fund and the State of Kansas on their watch lists due to an "unstable fiscal forecast". If the state's indebtedness were to be further downgraded, it would cause the cost of borrowing to go up significantly for the State and all local Kansas governments.

With all due respect to the bill's authors, the KC Chamber must vigorously oppose the substance of this bill. While we appreciate any serious effort to make state government, including KDOT, operate more efficiently and at reduced funding levels, the Chamber believes the way to do this is in the appropriations process, not through forcing savings by cutting off revenue.

House Taxation
Date: _____
Attachment: _____