



Wichita Independent Business Association

THE VOICE OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

February 14, 2013

**Written Testimony before the House Taxation Committee
HB 2136**

By Tim Witsman, President

Chairman Carlson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 2136. The Wichita Independent Business Association (WIBA) has represented Kansas businesses for 81 years. WIBA membership ranges from the individual sole proprietor operating a home-based business to large corporations with thousands of employees. WIBA has almost 700 member businesses from Wichita and throughout the state and represents more than 250 industries.

WIBA members oppose HB 2136 because it diverts promised dollars away from transportation funding, another important business priority. WIBA members believe that reducing the individual income tax rate in Kansas will help and aid small business growth in the state, however, a balanced approach should be taken to tax relief and other important priorities should not be sacrificed. Transportation is important to businesses as they transport good, travel throughout the state and can even be a factor in where they locate. A good transportation system in the state is important to a successful business climate.

HB 2136 will reallocate the dollars promised to the transportation to the state general fund. Reallocating these dollars will jeopardize the transportation system in the state and will mean a step backwards for Kansas citizens and businesses that operate in the state. WIBA members strongly oppose any type of transfer or reallocation of the dollars promised to the transportation program. This bill specifically breaks promises made in past sessions and puts important business priorities in jeopardy.

We ask that the members of the committee carefully consider the impact that HB 2136 will have on the roads and business community in the state. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.