



WICHITA METRO
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 20, 2103

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce and our nearly 1,700 member businesses, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of H.B. 2285.

The Wichita Chamber's top priority is to create a business environment in Kansas that fosters growth in employment and allows for the creation of wealth for all Kansas citizens. As a part of that effort, the Wichita Chamber was a leading proponent for the elimination of personal property taxes on business machinery and equipment. This successful multi-year effort culminated with the passage of legislation in 2006 that finally put Kansas on a level playing field with a majority of American states.

Unfortunately, a few counties in Kansas have decided to usurp the authority of the Kansas Legislature and have hired out of state appraisers in an effort to circumvent Kansas statutes. These appraisers have reclassified personal property as real property resulting in a significant increase in property taxes for some Kansas businesses. In some cases, property tax bills have more than doubled resulting in multi-million dollar increases in the cost of doing business for these Kansas companies. This is absolutely the wrong message at the wrong time for a state that is still struggling to recover from job losses associated with the recent recession.

H.B. 2285 codifies in state statute the Legislature's original intent when it eliminated the personal property tax on business machinery and equipment. It also sends a loud message to the business community across the United States that Kansas is competitive and open for business.

We urge you to pass H.B. 2285.

Best regards,

Jason P. Watkins
Director Government Relations

House Taxation
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