



HB 2118: Providing Income Tax Credits for Aerospace and Aviation Program Graduates and their Employees

February 4, 2019

Chairman Tarwater and Members of the House Commerce, Labor, and Economic Development Committee:

Thank you for including this letter of support on behalf of the **Greater Wichita Partnership** to HB2118. The Partnership is the lead public-private economic development organization serving the 10-county region of Wichita and **over 150 private-sector employers**, including the largest job-creators in the state like Spirit AeroSystems and Textron.

This proposal will provide tax credits to aerospace industry and related companies that are making new investments by hiring and investing in training the Kansas workforce. The Partnership joins the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and other organizations in supporting this needed tool for our economic development for three primary reasons.

- 1) **Supports Kansas' Key Industry Cluster:** the Partnership recently completed a comprehensive economic development strategic plan and targeted industry analysis for South-Central Kansas. It reinforced and reminded that the region's most significant industry cluster (and likely only globally recognizable cluster) is aerospace. The aerospace industry of Kansas has maintained its strength but private-sector innovation, unparalleled work ethic by Kansans, and leveraged investments by state & local government.
- 2) **Keeps Kansas Competitive:** our organization can attest- many states and regions are desperately vying for Kansas aerospace companies and workers to relocate to their state. The state of Oklahoma already has a program very similar to HB 2118 and has seen gains in attracting aerospace industry workers from across the county- including some from Kansas.
- 3) **Assists Kansas in Attracting Talent:** the targeted focus of HB 2118 to offset training and tuition expenses for aviation-industry workers will a significant attraction for the over 450 aerospace industry companies in Kansas to find new workers.

On behalf of the Partnership, we fully **support HB 2118 as it will aid the economic development and talent attraction efforts of Kansas**. We would be happy to provide additional information at your request.

Sincerely,

Andrew Nave, CEcD
Executive Vice President
Greater Wichita Partnership