



March 22, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. 2101; AN ACT concerning the university engineering initiative act; relating to goals; authorizing transfers from the expanded lottery act revenues fund for certain fiscal years; amending K.S.A. 74-8768 and 76-7,137 and repealing the existing sections.

This legislation extends funding from the Expanded Lottery Act Revenue Fund for engineering programs at Kansas universities. The Chamber stands in strong support of this legislation as the south-central Kansas economy benefits immensely from advanced manufacturing. In fact, the entire state and the State General Fund receive great benefit from the fruits of cutting-edge advancements made in manufacturing technologies and the jobs and revenue created. These advancements and the associated economic development opportunities require some of the world's best and most educated engineers.

Passage of H.B. 2101 will help to ensure that Kansas universities and Kansas engineering students continue to provide the critical support and resources necessary to move our state's advanced manufacturing sector forward. With this in mind, we urge the Committee to report H.B. 2101 favorable for passage.

Thank you, and I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce