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TO: Senator Karin Brownlee, Chairperson
Senator Nick Jordan, Vice-Chairperson
Members, Senate Commerce Committee

FROM: Ashley Sherard, Vice-President
Lenexa Chamber of Commerce

DATE: February 14, 2007

RE: **Support for SB 314—Expanding the Angel Investor Tax Credit Act**

The Lenexa Chamber of Commerce would like to express its support for Senate Bill (SB) 314, which includes increasing the aggregate amount of angel investor tax credits authorized each year from a total of \$2,000,000 up to \$8,000,000 and allowing bioscience companies to potentially qualify for such tax credits for up to ten years.

We strongly believe it is good public policy to encourage and support entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial companies typically experience the fastest growth rates and create most of the net new jobs in the U.S. each year, producing economic growth, additional tax base, and reinvestment.

Aspiring entrepreneurs have many risks and challenges to overcome. It is therefore vital that the state take steps to ensure that entrepreneurship continues to thrive in Kansas. We believe SB 314 provides critical new resources that will encourage additional private financial support for entrepreneurial initiatives, substantially improving their chances of success.

SB 314 also recognizes the unique challenges faced by start-up companies in the bioscience sector. These businesses typically take longer than other industries to develop and become profitable. Accordingly, SB 314 would allow investments in bioscience companies to potentially qualify for angel investor tax credits for up to ten years, rather than five years.

In summary, because we believe encouraging entrepreneurship will positively impact the economy and promote business development in communities statewide, the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce urges the committee to consider SB 314 favorable for passage. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.