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**Written Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2137**

**House Taxation Committee  
Thursday, February 14, 2013**

Mr. Chairman and House Taxation Committee Members:

My name is Jennifer Bruning, and I am Vice President of Government Affairs with the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. I am submitting written testimony today in opposition to House Bill 2137, which would sunset the \$4 vehicle modernization surcharge that was to be utilized as part of the funding mechanism for T-Works, Kansas' 10-year comprehensive transportation plan.

The Overland Park Chamber has been a proud supporter of the T-Works program from its inception, and we supported passage of both the one-cent sales tax increase in 2010 and the extension of the vehicle modernization surcharge in 2013 because they both provided dedicated sources of revenue for T-Works projects. Passage of HB 2137 would detrimentally affect KDOT's ability to finish the T-Works plan as promised.

A high quality transportation system is of utmost importance to the Overland Park business community. Well-maintained roads are central to the infrastructure that enhances our quality of life and a comprehensive transportation plan provides jobs for our citizens. Kansas' transportation systems are the foundation for the efficient movement of people and goods. The maintenance and expansion of our system is crucial for economic development, business retention and expansion, and job creation throughout the entire state.

The OP Chamber commends Governor Brownback for his public commitment to the completion of the T-Works program and we urge the Legislature to do the same. The Governor recently said, "Kansas businesses won't remain competitive in the future if we don't have a highway system that allows for efficiency and growth." We wholeheartedly agree.

Overland Park's business community is rapidly growing – in 2012 our City/Chamber economic development partnership announced over 4,000 new jobs to be created in our city boundaries. The T-WORKS program is allowing communities such as Overland Park, which has a large number of engineering and construction companies, to capture these emerging economic opportunities. If HB 2137 passes, several priority transportation projects, such as the Gateway Project at the intersections of I-35/I-435/K-10 and the Highway 69 Expansion project, could be in jeopardy. Without continued investment to maintain and modernize our highways, the progress we have made over the last twenty-three years will be lost.

We ask you as policymakers to honor your commitment to the T-Works funding structure as it was originally proposed and oppose HB 2137. Thank you for your consideration.

HOUSE TRANSPORTATION  
AND PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET  
DATE: MARCH 6, 2013  
ATTACHMENT# 5