



**House Commerce Committee
February 14, 2013
Written Testimony in opposition of HB 2136**

Chairman Carlson and honorable committee members,

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in Johnson County and the second largest chamber in the Kansas City area. Comprised of 1,300 members and growing, it was the first chamber in the state to receive 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce – a designation obtained by less than 1 percent of the nation’s chambers. Its mission is to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.

As the Olathe Chamber’s CEO, I am submitting this testimony in opposition of HB 2136. We oppose this bill because it would divert dollars from transportation funding, thus negatively impacting specific highway projects in our area, including the Johnson County Gateway Project. This bill would reallocate dollars promised to the transportation department and would put efforts like the Gateway Project in serious jeopardy. Projects like this are crucial for Olathe businesses and Johnson County as a whole, and jeopardizing its fruition could ultimately hinder the growth engine to the State of Kansas.

Finally, I’d be remised if I didn’t note that past transportation funding has contributed significant development within the city limits of Olathe. Prior transportation programs have helped to fund three different interchanges within our city limits (119th, 135th & 151st St.) – each of which contributed to nearly 1 billion in development. Therefore, we strongly oppose any type of transfer or reallocation of the dollars promised to the transportation program.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in opposition of HB 2136. I appreciate your efforts in reviewing the issues confronting the Kansas Unemployment Insurance System and look forward to working with you to resolve the issues. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 913.764.1050.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tim McKee'.

Tim McKee, CEO
Olathe Chamber of Commerce
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