



**House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
Hearing on HB 2006
Hearing Date – Thursday, January 31, 2019**

**Testimony in Opposition of HB 2006
on behalf of the Kansas Economic Development Alliance
by Trent Armbrust, Board Member**

The Honorable Sean Tarwater, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development

The Kansas Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) is a member association representing economic development professionals and organizations from across the state of Kansas. Our members work daily in Kansas communities with public and private partners to grow the Kansas economy through new and expanding businesses leading to job creation and capital investment.

Kansas, through the leadership of the legislature working with economic development professionals, has developed a suite of economic development tools such as PEAK and HPIP that gained national recognition as being innovative, practical and competitive. KEDA endorses our existing economic development programs and supports regular program review and accountability reporting by the Department of Commerce to the legislature. HB 2006 database reporting requirements may be counterproductive to recruitment and retention efforts with specific concerns being:

- HB 2006 creates an unfunded mandate to the Department of Commerce pulling existing labor away from efforts that grow the Kansas economy. The creation and maintenance of a new database will require dedicated labor resources. Will this database provide an ROI to the taxpayers of Kansas that existing reporting does not already provide?
- Confidentiality with our corporate partners is paramount. Exposure of confidential information at any point will compromise future efforts to work with any corporation. Confidentiality agreements should be honored regardless of date of execution.

The **Kansas Economic Development Alliance opposes HB 2006** as written but stands ready to work with the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Department of Commerce and other agencies to strengthen reporting and accountability of existing economic development programs while being responsible to the constituents, we all serve. KEDA is supportive of a new statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in which incentive program review and ROI criteria will be developed to ensure appropriate transparency measures are in place. Thank you for your time and consideration.