



February 6, 2020

House Commerce Committee
Attn: Sean Tarwater

Chairman Tarwater and Members of the Committee,

As the Executive Director of the Franklin County Development Council I work to help our industry and educational institutions partner to build a strong workforce. A key issue with our current industry and our ability to attract new industry is our workforce.

Our workforce shortages are THE issue confronting our industry today. We have existing industry that has the ability to produce at a higher level, but lack of workforce is keeping their production from increasing. We also have the challenge of providing workforce for industry recruitment. This issue is a concern today due to high unemployment but will continue to be a serious issue due to changing demographics as well. This is why I support HB 2416.

We must be creative and aggressive in workforce development policies. HB 2416 offers incentives to a business who employs Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is a great incentive for business, but also a tremendous way to benefit from the abilities that exist by these Kansans. It is exciting to see us acknowledge what these individuals can achieve, while assisting industrial growth.

I encourage the committee to support HB 2416.

Respectfully,

Paul Bean

Paul Bean
Executive Director
Franklin County Development Council