



Senator Julia Lynn  
Chair – Senate Commerce Committee

Senator Lynn and Members of the Committee:

The Overland Park Chamber of Commerce believes strong state economic development tools are vital for local business recruitment and retention. Programs such as PEAK, HPIP and STAR Bonds have proven to be effective in helping us recruit and retain employers and train employees. These companies and their employees are making significant contributions to the economic bottom line of the cities and counties where they are located and to the State of Kansas.

HB 2006 as Amended by the House Committee of the Whole, represents a reasonable balance between transparency, accountability and protecting sensitive data. It is the result of input from numerous stakeholders who worked together to find common ground.

The bill draws heavily from an analysis by PEW Charitable Trusts who looked at how states evaluated their economic development incentives. They uncovered common themes and identified several states who have been able to effectively evaluate economic development programs without jeopardizing confidentiality. One state that PEW recognized as a leader in economic development transparency was Indiana. Much of what HB 2006 as Amended by the House Committee of the Whole builds upon is the content and process in place in Indiana.

We support HB 2006 as Amended by the House Committee of the Whole and urge you to act favorably on the bill.

Kevin M. Walker  
Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce

