



House Committee on Commerce Labor & Economics
Written Testimony in
Support of SB 437
Submitted by Tim McKee, CEO
January 31, 2022

Chairman Tarwater 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 CEO of the Olathe Chamber, I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB 347, APEX (Attracting Powerful Economic Expansion), the mega economic development incentive program. In a global competitive market, Kansas must work smarter and be more innovative if it is going to attract quality development. SB 347 is uniquely tailored requiring primary investment of at least \$1 billion that also aggressively looks to recruit suppliers to the primary investor. While the level of incentive investment by the state may be significant, the investment is protected by a claw back provisions and well-defined oversight by the Secretary of Commerce.

The current economic development "toolbox" in Kansas is not competitive for securing megaproject deals. While projects of this size do not come around often, when they do, Kansas needs the right incentives to entice this level of transformative investment in our state. While it is appropriate to give pause and study SB 347, its passage is imperative if Kansas is going to compete and secure this level of investment into our state.

Today, Olathe competes nationally and internationally against countries and states whose incentive packages are far more robust and attractive. APEX is a tool that will attract mega investment in Kansas. The Olathe Chamber appreciates the efforts of the Department of Commerce and Kansas Senate to advance SB 347. We know time is of the essence to pass this piece of legislation and urge the House's swift passage of SB 347.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of SB 347. I would be happy to visit with any of you regarding our support of the APEX program and the impact we believe it will have on our Olathe community and the state of Kansas.

Tim McKee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim McKee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim McKee, CEO
Olathe Chamber of Commerce