



February 28, 2024

Sean Tarwater, Chairman
House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Letter of Support – HB 2471, Powering the EV & Hydrogen Sectors

Chairman Tarwater and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to submit our written testimony in support of HB 2471. We represent the voice of over 1,250 business members and serve as an economic development partner within Sedgwick County. We believe this bill will provide a mechanism for businesses in our area to compete within the EV/Hydrogen emerging sectors of the economy.

The type of economic development opportunities for which we are trying to compete are squarely in these emerging sectors, but other states and communities are gaining on us. This affects us directly in Sedgwick County, and communities across our state who are developing sites to bring new manufacturing jobs to Kansas. The focus of this bill is targeted at high quality, high wage jobs that would have a positive effect on the overall Kansas economy and differentiates us with a focus on training workers in high wage careers of the future.

Kansans need every advantage to compete with other states who also want to capture this next wave of capital investment and job creation in the EV and Hydrogen sectors. As economic developers we must compete with every state, and we see daily why Kansas needs these additional tools. For this reason, I request your support of HB2471 to attract new investment into Kansas. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

John Rolfe
President and CEO
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce