

Written Testimony in Opposition of Senate Bill 283

D. Mitch Robinson, Salina Community Economic Development Organization
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Chair Tyson and Committee Members:

Over the past several years, Kansas has significantly improved its economic development efforts. The introduction of new and updated tools has enabled the state to attract and compete for major projects seeking new locations or expansions. These tools have led to significant successes, allowing Kansas to compete for opportunities that previously would not have considered the state.

In Salina and Saline County, 12 companies use HPIP and PEAK to expand their operations. The City of Salina has utilized Industrial Revenue Bonds to provide tax abatements for numerous industrial and housing projects. Local leaders recognize the importance of these tools in facilitating projects, especially with rising construction costs. These incentives are contingent on creating new jobs, offering higher wages, providing health care benefits, and making significant capital investments.

SB 283 removes essential tools used by all parts of Kansas, from large metros to the smallest cities and counties. These programs enable us to compete with neighboring states like Missouri, Oklahoma, and Nebraska, as well as others like Texas. Programs such as HPIP, PEAK, and the Job Creation Fund (JCF) help Kansas secure projects. Eliminating these programs will set Kansas back to a time when it was not considered for new investments. Our communities will suffer from reduced investments, impacting small businesses through decreased sales. Local communities will have to make larger investments without state government partnership, increasing expenses and reducing the number of projects considering our state.

In closing, we understand the desire to reduce taxes across the board. However, Senate Bill 283 removes the tools that have enabled Kansas to compete in a growing economy where jobs are returning to the United States from overseas. This bill works against Kansans seeking better-paying positions with expanding businesses. Please email me at mrobinson@salinaedo.org with any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,



D. Mitch Robinson, CECD
Executive Director