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Date: March 4, 2025

To: Chairwoman Tyson & Vice Chairman Peck

From: Debra Teufel, Greater Hutch Economic Development/Hutch Chamber, President & CEO

Re: SB 283

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce and our Greater Hutch Economic Development Partnership to urge your rejection of SB 283. The regulations in this bill, including the discontinuation of the High-Performance Incentive Program tax credits, Promoting Employment Across Kansas act, Kansas Affordable Housing Tax Credit act, and discontinuation of the crediting of certain amounts of the job creation program funds would be harmful to the continued growth of our workforce and economic development opportunities in Kansas. Our state has benefitted from record investment projects directly because of these programs.

These programs are vital to growing the economy by attracting investment to Kansas and ensuring that companies already in Kansas choose to continue to grow and invest here, rather than seeking out other competitive locations with more advantageous tax programs.

Locally, Reno County businesses of all sizes have chosen Kansas for the continued investment directly because they saw the benefit of HPIP and PEAK, while also making the decision whether to grow here or in other locations. From our 100+ year old boiler manufacturer who chose to move a division from Virginia to Kansas, to the small drainage component manufacturing facility quietly investing and growing in Hutchinson, these programs have helped us grow our economy and ensure jobs for Kansans today and into the future.

In addition, discontinuing the affordable housing tax credit act will severely handicap communities that need new affordable housing options for the next generation. Reno County needs one hundred homes per year over the next 10 years. That is 1,000 homes in 10 years as we try to catch up after decades of lack of housing unit growth. The affordable housing tax credit act is one tool to fill that gap with moderate housing.

SB 283 threatens to disrupt Kansas' pro-business reputation and hinder the growth and sustainability of the manufacturing jobs in Kansas, not to mention removing a program that was just beginning to rectify the housing shortfalls we have in rural communities.

With these concerns in mind, I urge you to reject SB 283.

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