

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!

Jeffrey G. Locke Written Testimony before the House Tax Committee on HB 2763, aka the Kansas Economic Freedom Act of 2014, dated 03/14/2012 in Topeka, KS.

As an advocate for tax reform for over 12 years and as an instructor in the public schools and community colleges of Kansas for almost 20 years as of this Spring Semester 2012, I have a perspective that is different than most supporters of tax reform. My concern is for the students graduating that need a job to stay in Kansas and contribute to their quality of life. HB 2763 as a Tax Reform Plan takes the state government out of the granting of tax favors for special advantage and status. And it also surpasses the revenue amounts collected from all of the five state taxes combined and now eliminated by this bill.

So what is my perspective? What is my special consideration?

I support HB 2763 because it is in fact a “Jobs Bill Disguised as Tax Reform!” I see the biggest challenge with education being the over 60% of the state budget that it requires for adequate funding of just K-12, let alone that additional amount also required for Higher Education. With this kind of commitment to our children I would hope that most could find gainful employment and remain in Kansas to raise their families. But that is NOT happening as it should.

So what can be done to stop this regrettable exodus from Kansas to neighboring states? Simply this! Model Kansas after the tax revenue models of the most successful states of the union. And that would be states like Texas for example. The “business certainty climate” of Texas is a large part of the reason that people invest and move to the Lone Star state.

So I am advocating the immediate certainty of HB 2763 to create, by way of its design, the perfect environment for venture capitalism to relocate and provide private sector job opportunities for Kansas residents. It is completed by changing to the simplicity, transparency and fairness of a personal consumption “choice” tax on ALL retail goods and services purchased in Kansas vs. the current “confiscatory” taxation model on production i.e. personal income, corporate income, savings and investments in Kansas. The immediate incentive by way of HB 2763 is to remain in Kansas, as well as to also invest in Kansas to make profits and provide for the development of free enterprise jobs!

Louis R. Woodhill, contributor to Forbes On-line, Real Clear Markets and the Club for Growth, has framed the move to this plan as imperative to keeping Kansas solvent and also for it to be done immediately to provide for an annual jump to at least a 6% GDP total growth level. It is in this result that I find that I am most happy because that growth in GDP would no doubt reflect the flourishing of private sector jobs IN KANSAS!!!

So in conclusion I reiterate my support for this Tax Reform Design bill as the most efficient grower of our economy to both meet and eliminate the projected shortfalls that Dr. Arthur Hall, as Director of Applied Economics at KU, has warned this legislative body about as recently as this year!

Please advocate for my students as they graduate by giving them the certainty of the much required GDP growth in Kansas! And also please vote passage out of this assembled House Tax Committee in favor and without amendment, HB 2763 the Kansas Economic Freedom Act of 2014!!!

Respectfully,
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