



House Commerce Committee
February 6, 2013
Written Testimony in favor of HB 2124

Chairman Kleeb 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 Olathe Chamber’s CEO, I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB 2421. This bill proposes several needed reforms to the Kansas Unemployment Insurance system, particularly in how the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund (the Fund) is administered. While our members strongly support the public policy behind the Unemployment Compensation as a safety net, we are concerned its rising costs to Kansas employers will be detrimental to the economy recover, particularly when the 2010 rate caps are lifted next year and Kansas employers are required to pay an additional \$90 million into the Fund. We believe the proposals set out in HB 2124 will assist with offsetting some of the costs associated with bringing stability back to the fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments in favor of HB 2124. I appreciate your efforts in reviewing the issues confronting the Kansas Unemployment Insurance System and look forward to working with you to resolve the issues. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 913.764.1050.

Tim McKee, CEO
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House Commerce & Economic
Development Committee
Date: 2-7-13
Attachment #: 8