



**Testimony to Kansas House Energy and Environment Committee
In Opposition to HB2241
State Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards
Bob Vancrum, Government Affairs Consultant
For the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce**

Chairman Hedke and Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Greater Kansas City Chamber has 2,500 members, 40 percent of which are businesses in Kansas. The KC Chamber and its members, several of whom are the most innovative energy engineering firms in the world, have long been supporters of the development and responsible use of renewable energy. The KC Chamber supported the adoption of the current renewable standards and believes this is good public balancing the public health and environment concerns with important business considerations.

While a recent study by the Polsinelli law firm shows more than 12,000 jobs have been created in Kansas due to construction of 19 wind farms, a recent Kansas Corporation Commission report states that current renewable energy portfolio standards have had a very minor influence on consumer energy costs - 0% to 1.7% impact on consumer rates (October 2011 and November 2012). It is also important to note that nearly three-quarters of these new renewable energy jobs in Kansas are permanent and tied to the operation of wind farms and support industries. The economic benefits to landowners over the 20-year life of existing wind projects exceeds \$273 million and is helping keep farmers and ranchers on their land and keep rural life and communities economically viable.

The KC Chamber believes the current renewable energy standards adopted in 2009 are indeed working, creating job and landowner revenue, saving consumers

money, and helping the state achieve the balance between public health and business that the KC Chamber believes is vital for economic growth in our region and state.

We urge the committee and the Kansas Legislature to oppose legislation which would weaken, delay, and/or repeal the Kansas Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).