

Written Testimony: HB 2136
House Taxation Committee
Redirecting Dedicated 0.4% Sales Tax from KDOT to the State General Fund
February 14, 2013
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Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

Chairman Carlson and Members of the Committee:

The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce would like to express our opposition to HB 2136, which would redirect 0.4% of the penny sales tax from transportation funding to the State General Fund. The provision to continue the 0.4% of the penny sales tax for highways was an important component of the legislation approved three years ago to fund the T-Works Transportation Plan. The T-Works Plan must have the funding mechanism to continue building, maintaining and improving highways for Kansas citizens and the travelling public. Projects throughout the state have been identified; they are important to our economic growth and safe highways in all counties of the state.

Consistently business site selectors rank quality highways as one of the top three assets a state needs to attract private sector investment. In addition to the jobs that come with business investment, excellent construction jobs are created when roads are repaired, maintained and built. Our state and local communities must continue to address factors that make our state stand out for private investment growth. Our highways have been a strong factor in locating jobs in Kansas; we know the importance these roads play with our manufacturers and distribution centers here in Topeka.

The comprehensive transportations plans and corresponding funding that Kansas Legislators have approved over 30+ years have kept our state from deeper recessions, provided safe roads to travel, smooth roads to get goods to market and these improved roads draw more dollars and jobs to our state.

The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce asks that you reject HB 2136 and while you are at it, please reject HB 2137 which shifts the \$4 registration fee away from transportation funding. Promises are important to the people of Kansas; good roads impact all citizens, taking funds that have been set aside for our highways and other transportation needs reduces the trust Kansans have for promises now and in the future.