



Wichita Independent Business Association

THE VOICE OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS

January 29, 2013

**Written Testimony Before the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee
SB 78**

By Tim Witsman, President

Chairman Donovan and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Governor's tax proposal for 2013. The Wichita Independent Business Association (WIBA) has represented Kansas businesses for 81 years. WIBA membership ranges from the individual sole proprietor operating a home-based business to large corporations with thousands of employees. WIBA has almost 700 member businesses from Wichita and throughout the state and represents more than 250 industries.

WIBA is appreciative of the tax relief passed last session and the 2012 Legislature's attention to small and independent business issues. While our members believe that this tax bill may have a positive effect on small business and business growth in the state, more work is needed in achieving further tax relief for small and independent businesses in Kansas. WIBA members believe the 2013 Legislature should continue to support economic development initiatives which aid business growth and a well-educated, job-ready work force from which employers may draw. Small business is vital to the Kansas economy and we pledge to work with the Legislature to continue to improve the business climate in the state.

In a recent WIBA survey, members indicated that their top concerns remain business regulations/mandates and the impact of the Affordable Care Act, the next three issues of importance to them are:

- To provide economic development incentives for Kansas businesses
- To lower personal income tax rates and
- To provide adequate funding for K-12 education

We support the Governor's Tax Bill and the individual rate reduction. The rate reduction is important to small business members and will aid in business development and growth in the State of Kansas. WIBA members believe that reducing the individual income tax rate in Kansas will help and aid small business growth in the state. WIBA members believe that a balanced approach should be taken to tax relief and other important priorities should not be sacrificed.

We look forward to working with the members of this committee and other stakeholders on the Governor's tax plan and the positive impact this bill will have on small businesses in Kansas.