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Pat George, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

## Written Testimony of Commerce Secretary Pat George In Support of SB 202

### Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee

9:30 a.m., Feb. 27, 2013

548-S, The Statehouse

I want to express my support for **SB 202**, legislation that will add certain agricultural production NAICS subsectors to the definition of "qualified firm" within the High Performance Incentive Program (HPIP).

HPIP provides tax incentives to employers that pay above-average wages and have a strong commitment to skills development for their workers. This program recognizes the need for Kansas companies to remain competitive and encourages capital investment in facilities, technology and continued employee training and education. A substantial investment tax credit for new capital investment in Kansas and a related sales tax exemption are the primary benefits of this program.

I believe this bill would lead to more job creation and capital investment in Kansas and strengthen the agricultural sector in our state. Since companies using HPIP must pay a higher wage and have a training component for their workers, the changes proposed in this legislation will lead to higher than average wages and a more highly trained workforce in the agricultural sector, especially in rural areas of the state.

I urge the Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee to support this bill.

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SN Assmnt & Tax

2/27/13

Attach't # 9