



Kansas Economic Progress Council
Suite 200
212 West 8th
Topeka, Kansas 66603

Submitted Testimony on HB 2609
House Taxation Committee
Bernie Koch, Kansas Economic Progress Council
March 9, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 2609. The Kansas Economic Progress Council is a not for profit membership organization of businesses and individuals interested in advancing sound public policy in Kansas to enhance our state's quality of life.

Trustworthy economic research tells us that reliable legal systems and the investment rate in infrastructure have a significant impact on economic growth.

Reliable legal systems provide dependable enforcement of private contracts, protection of private property rights, and effective law enforcement. Local government is significantly important to providing reliable legal systems through law enforcement and the courts.

Likewise, infrastructure investment has a strong positive impact on growth. Infrastructure can be viewed as an extension of the equipment used by business to be more productive, except that private business itself does not provide the infrastructure. Government does. Local government provides roads, bridges, water systems, sewer systems, and often regulates public and private utilities necessary to a functioning economy.

KEPC supports local control by local elected officials. As such, we oppose proposals that cap or artificially restrain local spending and revenue growth.

Because government stability in revenue and services is a strong foundation of business growth, we support HB 2609 because it helps removes the barriers to successful community economic development efforts that were established by the 2015 tax lid legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on House Bill 2609.

Bernie Koch
Executive Director
(316) 207-3380