



April 28, 2016

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce and our 1,800 members, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to S.B. 508.

The public discourse and controversy surrounding the 2012 tax package is not lost on our organization. However, we have seen within our membership how the tax exemption on non-wage business income has lead to business expansion and growth in jobs.

Patty Koehler with JR Custom Metal and Don McGinty with McGinty Machine are just two members that have made multi-million dollar investments in machinery and equipment and that have hired additional workers based on the exemption. This is positive economic growth that both of these companies have stated publicly would not have occurred without the tax exemption.

Furthermore, we would ask you to consider the current unemployment rate in the state of Kansas. A statewide unemployment of 4% or less is enviable and is very likely attributable, in part, to the current tax system in Kansas. Increasing taxes on businesses will quite likely slow growth and potentially even lead to firms laying off workers.

With this in mind, we would request that you not report S.B. 508 favorable for passage.

Very truly yours,

Jason Watkins
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