1000 S.W. Jackson St., Suite 100
Topeka, KS 66612-1354

Kansas
Department of Commerce

Phone: (785) 296-3481
Fax: (785) 296-5055 TTY: 711
admin@kansascommerce.com
KansasCommerce.com

Pat George, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

Kansas Department of Commerce
Economic Development Audit

Prepared for the Senate Commerce Committee
Room 545-S, The Statehouse
Jan. 29, 2015

The Kansas Department of Commerce generally agrees with the findings of Part Three of the Economic Development audit. The auditors' findings confirm that the state's major economic development programs create significant return on investment for Kansas.

These programs are essential to the great economic development toolbox that the Legislature has provided for Kansas. It is important to note that the study was not intended to evaluate the relative value of the programs. While some show a much larger return on investment than others, the Department believes that all programs fill critical roles in addressing the different requirements of businesses.

In December, the American Economic Development Institute and Pollina Corporate Real Estate, one of the most influential site consulting firms in the U.S., ranked the Department as the nation's fifth best state economic development agency. The top 10 included two bordering states, Missouri and Nebraska. As a result of the strength of other states in the region, Kansas needs best possible set of economic development tools to create jobs and attract investment. Fortunately, the state has the necessary programs to thrive, both in its competitive region and across the world.

The successes that Pollina recognized in its ranking were made possible by the outstanding partnerships between Commerce, state and local leaders and businesses. The support of the Legislature and Kansas communities for a strong economy helps differentiate Kansas and attract businesses and jobs. The Legislature's efforts to create economic opportunity have resulted in well thought out and designed programs that help grow the state's economy. Commerce could not have earned the Pollina ranking without that support.

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