



**Senate Committee on Commerce
In Support of SB 493- Efficiency Study Recommendations
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

Madam Chair and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 493 which authorizes the department of commerce to charge up to a \$750 application fee for programs such as PEAK and HPIP.

We applaud the effort by the legislature to invest in an efficiency audit of state government to ensure state agencies are delivering essential services with the most effective use of tax dollars. While there are some recommendations from the A&M report we do have concerns with, many are positive recommendations which could offer the state significant cost savings.

That said, we are supportive of efficiency study recommendations so long as taxes are not increased on Kansas businesses. An effort to re-impose income taxes on small businesses is something our organization is strongly opposed to. After last year's tax increase, we would encourage the legislature to look at spending and efficiencies instead of revenue instead of making Kansas a more expensive place in which to do business.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this recommendation from the A&M study and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.



The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the leading statewide pro-business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.