



Kansas Department of Commerce

Testimony regarding the Kansas Bioscience Authority

**Prepared for the Senate Ways and Means Committee
Room 548-S, The Statehouse
May 18, 2015**

The Kansas Department of Commerce is neutral on the bill that would move the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA) under Commerce. If the Legislature deems it appropriate to move the management of KBA under the Department of Commerce, then the Department will work to fulfill the Legislature's wishes.

Economic development programs are used to jump start specific sectors of the economy that have potential. A decade ago, the bioscience industry was poised for growth in Kansas, and KBA was created as part of the Economic Growth Act of 2004 to help the industry gain a foothold. The organization has been successful in fulfilling its mission of helping new and existing bioscience companies create jobs and invest in Kansas.

The KBA should be commended for doing a notable job in running the organization and helping grow the state's economy. KBA's partnership with the University of Kansas Cancer Center has yielded many opportunities in the human health sector. Companies such as ADM, AGCO, Ceva and Hills have grown in Kansas with help from the Bioscience Authority. The National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility is being constructed in Manhattan in large part because of the efforts of the KBA.

KBA has performed a much needed function and helped biosciences grow in Kansas. If the Legislature deems that the KBA has fulfilled its mission of jump starting the bioscience industry in Kansas, then the Department of Commerce stands ready to assist in any way that the Legislature deems necessary. The Department takes very seriously its responsibility to protect the investment of Kansas taxpayers and to maximize the benefit they receive through the state's economic development programs.

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