

**House Committee on Appropriations
Support of House Bill 2133- Changing CRE from April 20 to May 1
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**



Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Mister Chairman 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 in support of House Bill 2133.

HB 2133 simply changes the consensus revenue estimate group meeting date from April 20 to May 1. Last fall, the office of the budget director released a report on recommended changes to the revenue estimating process in an effort to increase accuracy in the revenue estimating process. Some of these changes were made internally, while others like HB 2133 require statutory changes.

According to the report, “The CRE group has little information about the income tax collections from the mid-April tax filing deadline when they meet on April 20. Pushing the deadline back approximately 10 days would provide the group with a better view of income tax collections for the last quarter of the fiscal year.”

Much of the budget shortfall the state currently faces can be blamed on inaccurate revenue estimates which this part-time legislature uses to build its \$6 billion plus budget. Spending has increased at a faster pace than revenue causing budget shortfalls in recent years. Revenue estimates at one point had missed 33 out of 46 months making it nearly impossible for the state’s budget committees to accurately base spending levels. While three months is far from a long-term trend, we are pleased to see the past few months paint a more accurate picture of state revenue and applaud Director Sullivan for his efforts to improve the estimating process.

We support the changes made by the administration to improve revenue forecasts and we support HB 2133 to help the legislature improve its effectiveness in the budget development process. Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of House Bill 2133.



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.