



Area Chamber of Commerce

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Kansas House of Representatives

Attn: Steven Johnson, Chairman  
House Taxation Committee  
Kansas State Capital  
Topeka, Kansas 66603

RE: House Bill No. 2382, AN ACT concerning motor fuels tax; relating to rates, trip permits and distribution of revenues; amending K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 79-3492b, 79-34,118, 79-34,141 and 79-34,142 and repealing the existing sections.

Dear House Taxation Committee,

My name is Don Weiser, and I serve as the President and CEO of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce. I am pleased to present written statement in support of HB 2382.

The Salina Chamber has been very supportive of state highway transportation programs and understands the need to fully fund such maintenance and improvements for safety and access, as well as being able to boast to companies who are looking to relocate to our region, about the quality roads we have in Kansas. In addition, 60 percent of the revenue would go the Highway Fund, and 40 percent would be allocated to the Special City and County Highway Fund.

Over the last six years, \$2.7 billion has been swept from roads and bridges. Raising the motor fuel tax is a constitutionally protected way to insure that we begin to restore funding to our road and bridges. An increase in the motor fuel tax can place \$100 million back into the T-WORKS program, which was originally slated to create 175,000 jobs.

As of today, 2,151 bridges in Kansas are considered structurally deficient and 1,761 bridges are classified as functionally obsolete. Given the fact that over 600,000 Kansas travel across structurally deficient bridges every day, support for an increase in the motor fuel tax is a vote for the safety of Kansans and the Kansas Economy.

The Salina Chamber recognizes the importance of a quality, well-maintained comprehensive highway system and urges your support of HB 2382.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this important legislation.

Respectively,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Weiser", written over a horizontal line.

Don L. Weiser  
President/CEO  
Salina Area chamber of commerce

Right place. Right reason. Right *now*.