



Written Testimony in Opposition of SB223
Senate Assessment and Taxation
March 9, 2017
Lawrence Chamber of Commerce

Madame Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of SB223, which would impose a mileage restriction of 250 miles from Kansas before the PEAK program may be used as an economic development incentive.

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce opposes Senate Bill 223 because it removes a very important tool in the state's economic development toolbox. PEAK allows qualified employers, which create a certain number of good-paying jobs in Kansas to retain 95% of the Kansas payroll withholding taxes for those employees. PEAK and Kansas' other key economic development incentive, HPIP, are critical to our efforts to attract new businesses to Kansas and encourage our existing companies to expand here.

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce represents the business community in Lawrence and Douglas County through 900 business members which includes a broad cross-section of business types, sectors and sizes. The Chamber's affiliated economic development organization, Economic Development Corporation of Lawrence and Douglas County, is primarily responsible for attracting new businesses to the area, working with our existing companies to help them expand their operations here and act as an interface between our businesses and our excellent educational institutions to ensure Lawrence has a steady pipeline of skilled talented workers.

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce is part of a statewide Coalition of Local Chambers, which is likewise dedicated to improving the quality of life and economic prospects in each of the communities it represents. The Coalition has taken the strong position that economic development programs are critical tools used to retain and attract businesses and create jobs throughout Kansas and, thus, supports the preservation of existing programs and other resources, including PEAK and HPIP. The Committee can rest assured this program is critical to communities across the state. We encourage you to oppose SB223. Thank you.

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