

Written Statement in Support of SB 224
To the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation
By Lyle Butler, President and CEO,
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
March 17, 2017

Honorable Chair and members of the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation, my name is Lyle Butler, and I serve as the President and CEO of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce. I am pleased to present this written statement in support of SB 224, on behalf of the 822 member businesses and organizations of the Chamber.

The Manhattan Chamber has a long-held position that Kansas should maintain a balanced and equitable tax system that keeps pace with the cost of doing business in the state of Kansas. In particular, our community has continued to make investments in infrastructure and quality of life components that our citizens and businesses tell us they want. The Motor Fuel Tax in Kansas has not kept pace with the increased cost of road construction or maintenance; nor has it been balanced with increased fuel efficiency standards in the United States.

The Manhattan Chamber has supported the past two 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.

While SB 224 does not make increases in the distribution of the special city county roads and bridges revenue sharing at the local level, we believe it is important, nonetheless to support continued funding for the bonding of projects statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important matter. The Chamber urges your support of SB 224.