

D. Mitch Robinson
HB 2036
Support of HB 2036
Written Testimony Only

SALINA COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION, INC.
120 W. ASH
SALINA, KANSAS

MARCH 20, 2017

SENATOR CARYN TYSON, CHAIRPERSON
ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE
KANSAS SENATE
KANSAS STATE CAPITAL
300 SW 10TH STREET
TOPEKA, KS 66612

DEAR CHAIRPERSON TYSON:

THIS LETTER IS IN SUPPORT OF HB 2036 THE AVIATION WORKFORCE EDUCATION TAX CREDIT. THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATION IS A CRITICAL NEW TOOL FOR THE STATE OF KANSAS TO RETAKE IT FORMER RANKING AS ONE OF THE TOP STATES FOR AVIATION AND AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT. KANSAS HAS A PROUD HISTORY OF LEADING THE UNITED STATES IN THIS INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. BUT TO MANY STATES HAVE OVERTAKEN KANSAS IN THIS SECTOR LIKE NORTH CAROLINA, SOUTH CAROLINA, GEORGIA, ARIZONA AND OKLAHOMA. ONE NATIONAL TRADE JOURNAL, AREA DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE DOES NOT LIST KANSAS IN THE TOP 10 STATES FOR AVIATION DEVELOPMENT.

HB 2036 WILL PROVIDE NEEDED ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS WHO WANT TO WORK IN THE AVIATION AND AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES. THIS ASSISTANCE WILL HELP DEVELOP AND KEEP THESE SKILLED GRADUATES HERE IN KANSAS RATHER THAN LOSING THEM TO OTHER STATES. THIS PROGRAM WILL ALSO ASSIST INDUSTRIES IN THIS SECTOR BY PROVIDING AN EDUCATED LABOR FORCE DUE TO THE GRADUATES TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THIS PROGRAM.

KANSAS HAS MANY GREAT ASSETS IN THIS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT SECTOR OF THE KANSAS ECONOMY BUT WE NEED NEW AND AGGRESSIVE TOOLS TO COMPETE. THIS TAX CREDIT IT WILL HELP BUILD THE STATE ECONOMY BACK TO ITS HIGHER LEVEL IN AVIATION AND AEROSPACE INDUSTRIES. PLEASE CALL ON ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

SINCERELY,

**D. MITCH ROBINSON, CECD
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