



March 12, 2019

The Honorable Julia Lynn, Chair, and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

The Kansas Economic Development Alliance (KEDA) is a member association comprised of economic development professionals from across the state of Kansas. As an organization of economic development professionals, we believe that strong state economic development tools are critical to our state's ability to provide the sort of economic environment that is so vital for business growth, retention and recruitment.

The programs that currently exist in the Kansas economic tool set, primarily administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce, have been a major factor in our state's economic success and in our ability to grow employment and train employees. Our economic development programs and processes, like any such programs, require periodic evaluation to insure that program objectives are being met, that our programs operate efficiently, and that they are effectively administered. KEDA supports the regular evaluation of our economic development programs and supports measures that yield confidence and trust in our incentive programs and their delivery.

HB 2006, as Amended by the House Committee of the Whole, is a measure that strikes a reasonable balance between accountability, transparency and the protection of sensitive information. This bill in its current form, as passed unanimously by the House, represents collaboration and compromise by stakeholders and legislators, resulting in a legislative product that provides for evaluation and transparency while maintaining appropriate confidentiality safeguards.

The Kansas Economic Development Alliance encourages the Senate Commerce Committee to support HB 2006. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Kansas Legislature, the Kansas Department of Commerce, and other agencies as appropriate, to enhance program outcomes while ensuring the accountability of existing economic development programs.

We support HB 2006, as Amended by the House Committee of the Whole, and ask that you act favorably on the bill.

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