



HB 2499 Support

Written Testimony submitted to the
House Committee on Taxation

Curtis Sneden, President
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce supports House Bill 2499 which provides a sales tax refund for purchase of property used in video, internet access and telecommunications services. The Topeka Chamber is a partner organization of the Greater Topeka Partnership, a multi-faceted organization which guides our community's economic development activities and represents the voice of business in Topeka and Shawnee County. Our nearly 1,000 members are businesses dedicated to creating a more prosperous future for themselves and their community.

Key to unlocking the economic potential of our state will be ensuring our businesses and communities are connected and our most creative minds are empowered to exchange ideas at the speed of light. This is why the Topeka Chamber urges relevant stakeholders to collaborate to facilitate the extension of broadband technologies to all portions of Kansas where such services are likely to be in demand and continue to help individuals, businesses and families readily utilize the technologies to which they have access.

House Bill 2499 provides an important piece of the solution by providing a limited state sales tax refund on purchases of equipment for wireless connectivity, broadband internet access and video services. HB 2499 will position Kansas' communications providers to grow and compete with their peers in neighboring states which have already recognized the value of this type of limited measure. The total impact of the refund on the state's budget is limited to \$40 million but the benefit to Kansans, in terms of spurring investment in communications technologies across the state, will be far greater.

We urge you to support HB 2499.

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