



## Kansas State Senate Bill No. 282

### Proponent testimony for Senate Bill 282 before the House Committee on Taxation

March 16, 2022

Chair Smith, Ranking Member Gartner, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 282 and debating the merits of further supporting efforts to attract and retain highly-skilled aerospace workers in Kansas. **I respectfully ask for your support of this important workforce bill as the aerospace industry creates jobs and seeks to attract new employees to our state.**

We are asking for your support of SB 282 because it will help incentivize workers to remain in Kansas and prospective workers outside the state seek employment here. Other states, such as Oklahoma, have a similar program as proposed in SB 282, and this bill would help make Kansas more regionally competitive.

SB 282 supports recruitment efforts by aviation employers to keep more talent in the state when students graduate from a Kansas technical program or university degreed program in aerospace. Just as important, it will give job recruiters another reason to convince prospective candidates to consider locating to Kansas as we struggle to meet hiring needs with our existing population.

With responsibility for human resources, I manage the Kansas headquarters, U.S. sites, and global sites for Spirit AeroSystems. As you know, Spirit produces aerospace products for a diverse set of commercial, defense & space, and aftermarket customers. Spirit's manufacturing operations span about 12.8 million square feet of manufacturing space in Wichita, and we have hundreds of Kansas suppliers that make up our supply base in the region.

We expect to have growing demand over the next several years for thousands of highly-skilled workers needed to design, build, and assemble complex aerostructures as global air travel recovers and we expand into new defense and space programs.

The Kansas aerospace industry depends on having access to highly-skilled engineers and mechanics. Thank you for considering support for SB 282 and the positive effect it will have for students seeking engineering degrees and aerospace manufacturing certifications – and for employers needing to hire qualified talent.

Jay Hohl  
Vice President, Human Resources  
Spirit AeroSystems