



**Senate Commerce Committee  
Written Testimony in  
Support of SB 65  
Submitted by Tim McKee, CEO**

Chair Olson and honorable committee members,

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in Johnson County and the second largest chamber in the Kansas City area. Comprised of 1,300 members and growing, it was the first chamber in the state to receive 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce - a designation obtained by less than 1 percent of the nation's chambers. Its mission is to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe.

As the Olathe Chamber's CEO, I am submitting these written comments in support of SB 65, which proposes to decouple the Kansas Industrial Training (KIT) and Kansas Industrial Retraining (KIR) workforce training programs from the High-Performance Incentive Program (HPIP). These tools are vital to our economic development efforts to recruit new employers to the state as well as supporting existing employers' efforts to invest in and expand their businesses.

KIT is a program used to assist companies with job creation in Kansas by investing in necessary training for specific knowledge and skills needed for employees to enter their new jobs successfully. KIR is a job retention program that helps with retraining employees whose skills set are obsolete or inadequate for the new and innovative workplace technology and procedures. HPIP is a tool that provides tax incentives to employers who invest in capital improvements for facilities and technologies upgrades as well as provide for above average wages.

Historically, these three incentives have been linked together and used in conjunction with one another. While together they can be effective tools, we understand that many companies who qualify for one program often do not need the other program. This leads to unnecessary depletion of the program. By decoupling the incentives and allowing qualification for the programs independently the programs can be preserved for those companies who need them the most. By allowing these programs to be used independently, we believe they will be even more effective and provide the much-needed flexibility for today's competitive economic development arena.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these written comments in favor of SB 65. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 913.764.1050.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim McKee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim McKee, CEO  
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