

**Written Testimony in Support of SB 325
Attracting EV/Hydrogen/Headquarters
Senate Commerce Committee
Wednesday, April 26, 2023**

On behalf of Wyandotte Economic Development Council (WYEDC) please accept this written testimony in support of the proposal to attract electric vehicle, hydrogen, and headquarter investments to the State of Kansas.

As we have learned with the limited use of the APEX tool, when Kansas moves swiftly and aggressively to attract significant investments, we are successful. This tool as proposed continues that progressive view towards attracting investments tied to innovation and future technologies that will drive long term economic growth in the State.

As a community with a long history tied to the automotive industry with General Motors and the suppliers they utilize, it is this kind of tool that helps position Kansas for future investment and the next generation of job opportunities. Wyandotte County is among those locations in Kansas with access to natural resources like natural gas that could make us a good fit for these emerging technologies.

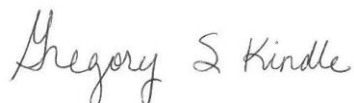
And, with existing vacant office space like that of the former Cerner Continuous Campus with 660,000 square feet of Class A space, working alongside Kansas Commerce to attract headquarters is greatly appreciated. The kind of headquarters opportunities being sought typically require speed to market – and tools to make it a business friendly environment similar to what we see in states like Texas, who have seen an explosion in the office market.

We appreciate the focus on quality jobs, high wages, and the targeted sectors of this legislation. We are also supportive of the focus on training Kansans as part of this proposal – we think this will support our kids and existing workers get trained in high wage career pathways.

Kansas Commerce has established a track record of being innovative and leading successful programs. We are pleased with the focus on growing the Kansas economy and for proactively developing tools to attract the investments focused on the next generation of jobs.

We urge you to consider this proposed legislation and the positive impact this tool can have on the State of Kansas. Today there is an urgency to ensure the State is ready for future jobs and to attract the kinds of investments for the long term. Thank you for your service to the State and for your thoughtful consideration. If you have questions, please email me at gkindle@wyedc.org or by phone at 913-748-2272.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory S. Kindle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

President