



Travel Industry Association of Kansas

825 S Kansas, Suite 502 • Topeka, Kansas 66612 • 785.233.9465 • www.tiak.org

marlee@brightcarpenter.com • natalie@brightcarpenter.com

February 14, 2013

Written Testimony before the House Taxation Committee

HB 2136

By Sally Fuller, President

Chairman Carlson and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 2136. The Travel Industry Association of Kansas (TIAK) is the unified voice that speaks on behalf of the travel industry in the state of Kansas. Our organization has over 160 members that represent and promote communities all over Kansas. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you and to express our concerns with HB 2136.

TIAK members oppose HB 2136 because it diverts promised dollars away from transportation funding, a very important priority for the travel industry. TIAK members understand the premise that reducing the individual income tax rate in Kansas will help and attract business growth in the state, however, a balanced approach should be taken to tax relief and other important priorities should not be sacrificed. A strong transportation system is vital to attracting travelers to Kansas, both for business and leisure travel. As we look to grow the state's economy, we need to be certain our investment in our transportation and infrastructure will sustain the growth.

HB 2136 will reallocate the dollars promised to the transportation to the state general fund. Reallocating these dollars will jeopardize the transportation system in the state and will mean a step backwards for Kansas citizens and businesses that operate in the state. TIAK members strongly oppose any type of transfer or reallocation of the dollars promised to the transportation program. This bill specifically breaks promises made in past sessions and puts important business priorities in jeopardy.

We ask that the members of the committee carefully consider the impact that HB 2136 will have on the roads and specifically the tourism business in the state. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.