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To: Chairman Campbell and Members of the House of Representatives Vision 2020 Committee

From: James Genandt, President/CEO-Manhattan Area Technical College

Date: February 10, 2016

RE: Testimony in support of HB 2570

HB 2570 would allow governing boards of the state's technical colleges the opportunity to authorize a property tax levy for capital projects. While I realize the notion of any tax may have negative connotations, I am speaking in favor of this proposed statute for the following reasons:

Manhattan Tech, like the other technical colleges in the state, operates with a budget comprised of an allocation of state resources based on enrollment in tiered technical education courses through the Kansas Board of Regents, and on tuition and fees paid by students. We receive no other public funding.

We do provide quality training and education which, in turn, produces skilled workers. Some examples from Manhattan Tech include:

- At December Commencement we graduated the 500th Registered Nurse (RN) in the history of the program here (we have now graduated a total of 520 RN graduates and more than 1,600 practical nursing students in the last 14 years! That nursing cohort that graduated in December started with 24 students...and all 24 completed the program...an amazing accomplishment!
- More than two dozen students completed either their certificate or associate degree in the electric power and distribution program. This program has probably provided over half the state's electric lineman workforce over the past 50 years, averaging about 20 graduates a year over those 50 years. Recently, the Kansas Electric Cooperatives provided a donation of \$5,000 to help our students with their gear!
- Our dental hygiene program has had a 100% pass rate each year for the past four years, and the program has served over 1,200 area residents with basic dental care as part of their training since the program's inception.
- MATC graduates more than 300 students each year (based on a 3 year average), and the average annual first year salary for these students after completing their program of study is around \$40,000. Our average annual cost of attendance is \$14,000. About 25% of our enrollment this year are high school students getting an early start with their general education and/or technical education courses.
- The institution, as a vocational-technical school with the local school district for 35 years, and has a public accredited technical college for 15 years, has produced thousands of skilled workers for the region and the state. These workers have become taxpayers, reinforcing the return on investment of any resources provided to Manhattan Tech.
- We provide basic workforce training programs: nursing, CNA, medical lab tech, HVAC, welding, building trades, electric power & distribution, business, information networking technology, dental hygiene, phlebotomy, IV

therapy, digital design, auto collision repair, automotive technology, and biotechnology (in support of NBAF and the food science programs of KSU).

- Manhattan Tech was recently notified that we are 1 of 150 community and technical colleges in the USA as being eligible to compete for the Aspen Institute's Community College Excellence award. We were also, just this week, identified as a recipient of the NBAF Innovation Award grant where we will pilot specific safety training for biohazard lab facilities. Only two awards were made in the nation, so we are very proud of our capacity to demonstrate the excellence of our biotechnology training program.

I have been the president of the college since July 1, 2015. I have had the chance to visit with many folks in the region, and most of them realize the value in what we do for the area's workforce. MATC is fully accredited, and we provide options for students related to technical education preparation and general education requirements.

My goal is for us to be as responsive and proactive as we can be in meeting the needs of this region for its economic development capacity. Each of our programs has an advisory council comprised of employers and other stakeholders. We rely on their feedback about the training we provide students who become their employees. We also work closely with the members and staffs of the Technical Education Authority and the Kansas Board of Regents to develop and measure the need and performance of our programs.

For us to be able to maintain and even advance our capacity for training and education to meet the always changing needs of this century we constantly strive to develop partnerships to leverage resources. Our program faculty make great use of the generosity of many of our service area's businesses who donate equipment and supplies and donate for student scholarships. Quality technical education instructors are expensive as these are folks who could all make substantially more by remaining in the private sector. We are so blessed to have them as our teachers and facilitators.

The proposed legislation would allow us to address facilities' needs which are always present. At Manhattan Tech we were fortunate to receive a deed to the former vo-tech property and facilities through USD 383. But facility expansion and maintenance over the past 15 years has been severely limited, often consisting of using modular units. This proposed measure gives us a chance to improve our facilities' capacity and continue to offer quality workforce education for a region of the state that is very important economically with Ft. Riley, the businesses and industries around Junction City/Manhattan/Wamego, and in support of the research efforts of Kansas State University.

Thanks for your support of Manhattan Area Technical College, and please continue to do so. We have completed our first 50 years, and as the old song says...*the best is yet to come!*

I can be reached at 785-320-4500 or at jamesgenandt@manhattantech.edu.



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