

Remarks by Kenneth D. Buchele
Regarding Conformation Hearing for appointment to Kansas Bioscience Authority
Board of Directors
To
The Senate Standing Committee on Commerce
February 4, 2016

Good morning Madame Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Kenneth (Ken) Buchele. First, I would like to give you a brief review of my involvement with the Kansas Bioscience Authority (KBA) and why I am here to be confirmed as a board member for the second time. On October 21, 2011 former Senate President Steve Morris appointed me to the KBA Board of Directors. This term expired in March of 2015. Specifications in the Kansas Economics Growth Act of 2004 (KEGA), which created the KBA, clearly set out the terms and appointing authority of board members KEGA allows a board member to continue to serve until the board member is reappointed or a replacement is appointed by the appointing authority, who in this case is the Senate President. I continued to serve as a board member until Senate President Susan Wagle appointed former Secretary of Commerce Mr. Pat George to fill the board seat. Because of my desire to continue on the KBA Board, we approached Senate Minority Leader Senator Hensley, who had a vacant appointment, asking if he would be willing to appoint me to that board seat. On August 21, 2015 Senator Hensley appointed me to fill that vacant seat on the KBA Board. The purpose of my being here is conformation for my current appointment.

I am currently a member of the Executive Committee and serve as the Treasure of the KBA Board. I have now served on the board for over 4 years.

I am aware that the Senate Confirmation Oversight Committee has compiled a great deal of information about me as part of the required background check. I am also aware that you have access to that information. However, for the purposes of this hearing, I thought I would give you a short summary on my back ground to support my appointment to the KBA Board of Directors.

I grew up in Cedar Vale, Kansas on farm and ranch owned by my father and uncle. I entered Kansas State University as a freshman in 1962. While there I was involved in a number of student government activities.

Upon graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Feed Technology I accepted a job with Cargill Inc. in February 1967. While in their training program, I was able to visit many of their facilities. After finishing the training program, I was assigned to a position in Fort Worth, Texas in their Nutrena Feed Division. Following this assignment, I left Cargill in 1969 to join the Peace Corps. I was assigned to a program working with Agricultural Coops in the Amazon region of Brazil. I was in Brazil from September 1969 to December 1971.

I began my banking career in 1972 in Emporia, Kansas. At one point, as senior lender for Bank IV Emporia, I had the responsibility to manage a loan portfolio of around 70 million dollars. I had a staff of 5 people in my department. I later joined ESB Financial (a family owned bank in Emporia, Kansas). I retired in 2012 from ESB Financial as a Senior Vice President in commercial lending.

Over the past 40 years I have been involved with many organizations as both a board member and an officer such as in the Emporia Community Foundation, Emporia Chamber of Commerce, Newman Regional Health, Frontier Financial Partners (a SBA Certified Development Company), and the Mental Health Center of East Central Kansas. In each of these examples I was on a volunteer board charged with the responsibility of managing a professional staff. I understand the challenges of a volunteer board that meets on a monthly or quarterly basis in managing this responsibility.

Other than being in Fort Worth and then Brazil during my time in the Peace Corps, I am a life long resident in the State of Kansas.

Since I am now retired from a full time job I would have the time to spend on matters that would come before the KBA. Thank you for your consideration of my conformation to the KBA Board of Directors.

I will be glad to respond to any specific questions you may have.