



To: Members of the Ways and Means Committee

Subject: Kansas Bioscience Authority

The Kansas Research Nexus (KRN) is pleased to express our support of the Kansas Bioscience Authority and the continuation of the outstanding work they have done for the benefit of not only existing but also new bioscience companies in Kansas.

KRN is a regional economic development marketing, leadership, and advocacy alliance that are promoting economic growth primarily in the Lawrence, Topeka, and Manhattan region for the animal and life sciences. This 9-county area brings a combination of the many assets of our region together to strengthen the economic development in Kansas. This includes extensive research and development investing more than \$500 million each year in research conducted at regional universities, federal labs and contract research companies. There also exists a variety of well-supported technology clusters, that are constantly developing the products, processes and services that will help define the future. There is a long list of resources that come together to synergistically deliver “Bioscience Economic Development”. One of the key resources has been the Kansas Bioscience Authority. The Authority has developed a level of professional expertise in working with and supporting mature and emerging bioscience companies that is unequalled in our region.

As a group KRN has visited the KBA and participated in discussions regarding the impact of their work. We came away from that visit convinced that the goals for initially establishing the KBA have been and are being realized. Kansas bioscience job growth is one of the best in the country which is a testimony to the effectiveness of the KBA.

The region’s Animal Health Corridor is often not understood or appreciated. The corridor includes more than 70 global or U.S. headquarters of industry companies. There are very few states in our great country that have this kind of resource. The KBA brings the level of specialized professionalism and support in the bioscience arena that this robust concentration of bioscience companies deserves and is getting.

Again KRN strongly supports the continuation of the KBA’s work to be a key contributor to keep Kansas on “cutting edge” of bioscience bringing new bioscience companies and jobs to our state.

Respectfully submitted.

Larry McElwain, President/ CEO, The Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas
Lyle Butler, President/CEO, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
Curtis Sneden, Interim President/CEO, Topeka Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas
646 Vermont, Suite 200
Lawrence, Kansas 66044
785.865.4425

Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
501 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66502-6005
785.776.8829

Greater Topeka Chamber/GO Topeka
120 SE Sixth Avenue, Suite 110
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3515
785.234.2644