

March 13, 2024

Chairman Billinger and Members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the Lawrence Home Builders Association (LHBA) in <u>support</u> of SB 529. LHBA is a local building trades association with over 180 members having an interest in the residential building trades.

SB 529 will enable a critical step forward to be taken in workforce development. The Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center has proven to be a valuable community partner in Douglas County. Peaslee Tech trains unskilled workers, elevates skilled workers, and provides resources to employers. They do a great job understanding specific workforce needs, including those in construction, and respond accordingly. As we continue to face challenges to provide entry level housing, having an adequate supply of skilled workers in place is a top priority and will be ongoing.

I believe the citizens of Douglas County recognize the tremendous economic impact Peaslee Tech has in our community. SB 529 will give voters the chance to solidify their support of workforce development and provide Peaslee Tech with long-term stability through a ballot question enabling a taxing district to be formed.

Thank you for considering the importance of SB 529 to our community. We ask that you support this bill.

Sincerely.

Bobbie Flory Executive Director