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March 7, 2024

Kansas Senate  
Ways and Means Committee

Dear Chairman Billinger and Committee Members,

Thank you for consideration of SB 529 in support of allowing a ballot issue to form a special district for the ongoing support of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center. I have had the privilege of serving on the Peaslee Board of Trustees since its inception.

Located at 2920 Haskell Avenue in Lawrence, Peaslee Tech was established by a consortium of partners, including the Economic Development Corporation of Lawrence, the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, the Chamber, local industry, and private donors. Peaslee Tech's mission is to grow a workforce, rich with technically skilled individuals, within the Lawrence and Douglas County communities.

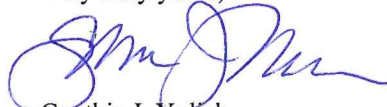
Peaslee Tech opened in August of 2015 and was approved as a post-secondary institution by the Kansas Board of Regents in November of 2017. Since that time, Peaslee Tech has developed 26 career training preparation programs and more than 700 online programs and courses. Peaslee Tech offers programs and courses to support several sectors, including Transportation, Building Trades, Skilled Trades, and Healthcare. Additionally, Peaslee Tech offers apprenticeships and open enrollment in Industrial Maintenance, Automotive Technology, Auto Body Repair, Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC, and Facilities Maintenance. Clinical Dental Assistant, Veterinary Assistant, and Drafting (AutoCAD) were added in 2020. Since that time, more programs have been added including CDL Training, Court Reporting, Medical Coding and Project Management.

Peaslee Tech is funded primarily by annual requests to the City of Lawrence and Douglas County, and tuition. While both the City of Lawrence and Douglas County have been very supportive of Peaslee Tech, the Peaslee Tech Board of Directors is seeking long-term funding stability, to ensure the sustainability of Peaslee Tech for years to come.

Peaslee Tech is requesting-SB 529 be enacted in the 2024 session of the Kansas Legislature to enable the Douglas County Commission to make a ballot proposition that, if approved by the majority of voters, would levy not more than a .50 mill property tax fund to support Peaslee Tech.

Please join me in supporting this effort.

Very truly yours,



Cynthia J. Yulich  
Vice President  
Peaslee Tech Board of Trustees

Emprise Bank – Market President  
Lawrence, Kansas