



March 29, 2012

Senator Carolyn McGinn
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
300 SW 10th Ave., Room 545-S
State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66612

Senator McGinn and Members of the Committee:

The Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation is asking for your support of HB 2755. The Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation was established in 2003 to raise funds for the renovation, preservation and beautification of the historical Kansas State Fairgrounds. The volunteer board currently consists of fourteen individuals and does not employ any administrative staff or own any physical assets.

These individuals raise private funds to fulfill the Foundation's mission. Funds raised have been utilized to renovate and landscape the historical House of Capper, enhance fairgrounds lighting and provide additional seating throughout the grounds.

In celebration of the 100 years of the Kansas State Fair, the Foundation has launched a fund-raising campaign to construct a State Fair Museum. The Museum would replace what is currently the White House, where the Legislative Reception is held during the Fair. The White House is in great need of repair and has limited use. The Museum would provide the Kansas State Fair a location to display the 100 years of Kansas State Fair history and meet the needs of the current structure which is utilized for numerous activities during the Fair.

Similar legislation currently exists allowing the State Board of Regents and their respective Foundations the ability to raise private funds and construct facilities without having to receive approval by the Director of Administration or Director of Architectural Services.

We appreciate your consideration of HB2755.

Sincerely,

Dr. Becky Klingler, Chair
Kansas Fairgrounds Foundation

Senate Ways and Means
Date: 03-29-2012
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