

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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TOM MOXLEY
REPRESENTATIVE, 68TH DISTRICT

Proponent Testimony on HB 2268

Chairman Brunk, Vice Chairman Couture-Lovelady, Ranking Member Tietze and Members of the Committee:

This gift of the 1857 vintage "Last Chance Store" to the state of Kansas, should we decide to accept it, is truly one of Kansas's historical treasures.

You will hear testimony that extolls the virtues of the interstate and international highway which became known as the Santa Fe Trail. It began at Westport on the Missouri River and ended in what was Santa Fe, Mexico, later New Mexico. Council Grove played a significant role in the frontier years of trade, and settlement of the west. For more than 50 years, it was the last outpost for the next 600 miles. Even more significant, this building was the last store, the last chance for shippers, the military and settlers to buy goods for the next 60 days on their westward trek. Traders, wheel rights, blacksmiths, and outfitters set up camp in the Grove to support this major trail. You will get a more complete description from the Kansas Historical Society (KHS). Suffice it to say, there are few buildings in Kansas of this importance, quality, and historic significance.

That the Last Chance Store has been preserved for over 150 years by dedicated owners, including this donor Connie Essington. It is a tribute to the importance that should be placed in this gift.

You will hear testimony from the KHS as to how this enhances both it and the existing KHS Kaw Indian Mission Historic Site. The Last Chance is exactly on the old Santa Fe Trail (US Hwy 56) and the store gives today's traveler a roadside entry way to both it and the Kaw Mission Historic Site.

I am thrilled that Kansas has this opportunity to acquire this site, preserve it and open it for public use.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Moxley".

Tom Moxley