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118TH DISTRICT

House Tax Committee
Marvin KleeB, Chairman
March 7, 2016

Testimony in Support of HB 2706

Thank you, Chairman KleeB and members of the committee, for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am here to offer my support for HB 2706, which would grant a property tax exemption to Gove County Healthcare Endowment Foundation Inc. relating to the airport at Quinter which is scheduled for construction in 2016.

Gove County is one of only two counties in Kansas without an airport. And although the county is sparsely populated and its largest town is Quinter, with a population of about 900, Gove County Medical Center has developed into a regional healthcare hub, with a staff of six physicians. The Aviation Division of KDOT has identified the Quinter/Gove County region as being deficient on their aviation maps and has now awarded a grant to the endowment foundation for the purposes of constructing an airport just outside of Quinter.

The endowment foundation operates on contributions, and once the airport is complete the foundation will also receive rental fees on hangar space at the airport. Therefore granting an exemption from property tax for the airport will be critical to the ongoing viability of the project. It is important to note that if the airport were being constructed by either the City of Quinter or the County of Gove, both a sales tax and property tax exemption would have automatically applied to the airport project. You have before you today letters of support from both the city and county as well as other interested groups and individuals.

I urge your support for this project and HB 2706. I would be happy to stand for questions.