

STATE OF KANSAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL 274-W
300 S.W. TENTH AVENUE
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J.R. CLAEYS
69TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIRMAN, TRANSPORTATION
& PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE, LABOR &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
JOINT COMMITTEE ON
STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HB 2146

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Taxation Committee:

The Kansas State University Bulk Solids Innovation Center in Salina is one of only three research facilities of its kind on earth. It is a joint effort of the **State of Kansas**, Kansas State University, the Salina Chamber of Commerce, Salina Economic Development Corporation, U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, the City of Salina and several private businesses (full partner list on next page). Two local companies, Coperion K-Tron and Vortex Valves, are the initial anchor tenants, conducting both their own research as well as collaborative analysis with the university.

The county has decided to force property tax payments from our research facility. This facility is designed for research, for collaboration, and primarily, for economic development. In fact, I invited a group from the Kansas Department of Commerce, and our Secretary of Commerce, to tour this facility. It is one of the truly unique facilities that sets Salina and Kansas apart in the field of agriculture and food science. The research being conducted here is world class and should not be subject to onerous taxation.

I have one simple request for you today after you hear the testimony from interested parties in Salina on this issue – put a stop to the unfair taxation of this facility, and maintain retroactivity to force repayment of taxes paid under protest. We cannot afford to lose this economic development growth engine in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.R. Claeys".

J.R. Claeys

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Kansas State University Bulk Solids Innovation Center Facility Partners:

- State of Kansas
- Kansas State University
- The Salina Chamber of Commerce
- Salina Economic Development Corporation
- U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration
- City of Salina
- Coperion K-Tron
- Vortex Valves
- Airlanco
- Barr-Thorp Electric
- Festo Corp.
- Gardner Denver
- Gruvlok
- Hawk Installation
- Hosokawa Micron Power Systems
- Kasa Controls
- Marmon / Keystone
- Morris
- National Bulk Equipment
- Nordfab Ducting and ChaDa Sales
- Pathfinder Systems
- Regal Beloit
- Rembe
- Rice Lake Weighing Systems
- Rockwell Automation
- SMC
- Spiroflow
- Stanion Wholesale Electric
- Stoddard
- Toshiba
- Tuthill
- Turck
- White Equipment
- BinMaster
- Bobcat of Salina
- Brookfield Engineering Laboratories
- Carman Industries
- Construction Rental
- CST Industries
- Endress + Hauser
- Fastenal
- Ferco Rental Salina