



**PEASLEE
TECH**



February 5, 2021

Kansas House of Representatives
Local Government Committee

Dear Kansas House of Representatives, Local Government Committee,

Thank you for consideration of HB 2175 in support of allowing a ballot issue to form a special district for the ongoing support of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center.

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.

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 continuation of the school.

Peaslee Tech is requesting HB2175 be enacted in the 2021 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 a 0.50 mill property tax fund to support Peaslee Tech.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Kelley, PhD
Chief Executive Officer



DOUGLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1100 Massachusetts Street
Lawrence, KS 66044-3064
(785) 832-5268 Fax (785) 832-5148
www.douglascountyks.org

February 8, 2021

Kansas House of Representatives
Local Government Committee

Dear Kansas House of Representatives, Local Government Committee:

Thank you for the consideration of HB 2175 in support of allowing a ballot issue to form a special district for the ongoing support of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center.

Douglas County Board of County Commissioners recognize the important role Peaslee Tech plays in providing a variety of technical programs to county residents and businesses. Since its conception, 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.

With this in mind, Douglas County Commissioners support enabling legislation authorizing a countywide election to form a special district to provide stable and sustainable funding for Peaslee Tech in the form of a 0.50 mill property tax.

Sincerely,

Shannon Portillo
Chair of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners

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Douglas County 2021 Legislative Statement

Douglas County Initiatives

- **Energy Choice:** Prohibits municipalities from adopting policies that ban a certain type or source of energy. Legislation proposed by natural gas companies.
- **Kansas Energy Efficiency Investment Act (KEEIA):** Legislation that seeks to expand the types of energy efficiency programs available to businesses, cities, schools, and residences in Kansas.

Housing. We support counties' home rule authority to address affordable housing needs, which are now at a crisis level, through all available methods, including inclusionary zoning. This includes a repeal of the prohibition in state law that removes this option for local governments. Additionally, recognizing COVID-19's disproportionate impact on low-income Kansans, the County supports additional measures to help Kansans secure ongoing access to safe and affordable housing including the Kansas Eviction Prevention Program. Other, longer-term efforts to help include intervention rental assistance measures as a more effective alternative to rapid rehousing and requiring landlords to offer payment plans prior to eviction of a tenant.

Local Food System Support. We support the recommendations of the State's Local Food and Farm Task force to create a statewide Local Food and Farm Plan with policy and funding recommendations to increase production of locally grown foods.

Sales Tax on Food. We encourage the legislature to follow the Governor's Tax Council recommendation to lower the State sales tax on food for low-income citizens by establishing a food sales tax rebate.

Support for Peaslee Tech. The County recognizes the important role Peaslee Tech plays in providing a variety of technical programs to county residents and businesses. We support enabling legislation authorizing a countywide election to form a special district to provide stable and sustainable funding for Peaslee Tech.

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City of Lawrence

2021 Legislative Priority Statement

According to the Americans for the Arts, Arts and Economic Prosperity 5, the nonprofit arts and culture sector in Lawrence-Douglas County is a \$30.8 million industry that supports 1,061 full-time equivalent jobs and generates \$2.8 million in local and state government revenue. The arts are the infrastructure of our culture. Arts organizations are like farms. Instead of food, they produce culture. The City asks that State funding for the arts be restored.

City and University Relationships. The City will strive to collaborate with and support both the University of Kansas and Haskell Indian Nations University on their legislative issues and agendas. The City supports increased state funding for higher education in Kansas. Investment in higher education is an investment in Kansas cities. Aging infrastructure and buildings on state and federal college campuses should be supported by renewed investment, improvements, and facility upgrades where needed. The City supports legislation that would allow a member of a federally recognized Native American Nation or Tribe eligible to attend a public postsecondary institution in Kansas and pay resident tuition rates.

Support for Funding – Peaslee Tech. The City of Lawrence supports legislation to enable a county-wide election in November of 2021, to establish a special taxing district encompassing Douglas County, to provide a permanent funding stream for  **PEASLEE TECH** Peaslee Tech.



Strong, Welcoming Neighborhoods

Support for Affordable Housing Initiatives. The City of Lawrence supports more statewide programs to promote affordable housing solutions. Local governments need more tools to enact affordable housing measures – this is not just a rural issue.



- The City of Lawrence supports creation of a statewide taskforce on Affordable Housing.
- The City of Lawrence supports assistance for mortgage and

The City of Lawrence supports the following changes:

- Cash bonds (legislative changes to move to a no cash bond for certain crimes).
- Issues related to the criminalization of poverty (such as driver's license reinstatement fees).
- Incentive based probation.

Enhancements to the Kansas Act Against Discrimination. The City of Lawrence supports legislation to codify the recent United States Supreme Court decision in *Bostock v. Clayton County*, which held that discrimination on the basis of homosexuality and transgender status is prohibited by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The City also supports amending the definition of race in the act to include traits historically associated with race – including hair texture and protective hairstyles, language that was included in legislation from the 2020 legislative session.



Safe and Secure

Support for enforcement of local health department orders. Local units of government should have access to resources and the tools they need without restrictions from the state to enforce local health department orders.

The City of Lawrence supports local control regarding any changes to the Kansas Emergency Management Act (KEMA). KEMA was created as a response mechanism for natural disaster situations of limited duration and not health related pandemics. Any changes to KEMA should provide local units of government flexibility and local control in dealing with health emergency situations and should consider the role of cities in responding to disasters and emergency situations.



Unemployment Compensation Fund. Employer increases to unemployment withholdings will only increase the already stressed business environment. The State should look for alternative revenue streams to keep the fund balanced.



EMPRISE BANK®

February 5, 2021

1121 Wakarusa Drive
Lawrence, Kansas 66049
785.838.2001 · EmpriseBank.com

Dear Members of the Kansas House of Representatives, Local Government Committee,

Thank you for consideration of HB 2175 in support of allowing a ballot issue to form a special district for the ongoing support of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center. As a founding member of the Peaslee Board of Directors, an employer in Lawrence, Kansas, and a community member, I whole-heartedly support this effort.

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. In our first year, we had 100 enrollments. Over time, Peaslee Tech 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.

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, the Peaslee Tech Board is seeking long-term funding to ensure the sustainability of the school that is so vital to our community.

Peaslee Tech is requesting HB2175 be enacted in the 2021 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 a 0.50 mill property tax fund to support Peaslee Tech.

Sincerely,



Cynthia J. Yulich

Market President-Emprise Bank

3780 Greenway Circle
Lawrence, KS 66046
Telephone (785) 330-7100
Fax (785) 749-1693

February 8, 2021

Kansas House of Representatives
Local Government Committee

Dear Kansas House of Representatives, Local Government Committee,

Thank you for consideration of HB 2175 in support of allowing a ballot issue to form a special district for the ongoing support of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center.

Peaslee Tech provides training required for a strong workforce in support of state and local goals of growing the economy through the growth of businesses. A highly skilled workforce is essential to Lawrence and Douglas County to provide high-paying job opportunities for local residents.

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.

The opportunities and training provided at Peaslee Tech are utilized by a large variety of people; however, an important sector of the population benefiting from a local school includes displaced workers, marginalized communities, and non-degreed workers who seek a higher paying career. The accessibility of Peaslee Tech to the community is key in this endeavor as other opportunities require travel outside of the county which is a barrier to many groups.

Peaslee has successfully been funded through the city of Lawrence, Douglas County, and private donations; however, the goal of Peaslee is long-term funding stability utilizing a 0.50 mill property tax fund to support the school into the future. Please support Peaslee Tech's future and the future of the residents of the City of Lawrence and Douglas County.

Sincerely,

Sandy Dixon

Sandy Dixon | Site & Technical Director
PLASTIKON Healthcare, LLC
sdixon@plastikon.com

PETEFISH

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Olin K. Petefish (1912-2001)
Jeffrey O. Heeb (retired)
John J. Immel (retired)

February 5, 2021

Kansas House of Representatives
Local Government Committee

Re: The Duane Peaslee Technical Training Center
HB 2175

Dear Kansas House of Representatives, Local Government Committee,

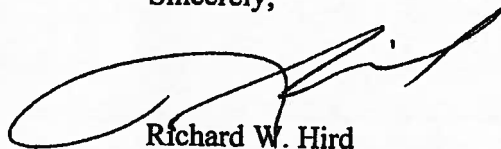
I am writing to express my support for HB 2175, which will provide much needed financial stability for Peaslee Tech, and to request your support.

I have had the pleasure of serving as counsel to the Board of Directors since Peaslee Tech was founded and opened in 2015. Peaslee Tech was approved as a post-secondary institution by the Kansas Board of Regents in November of 2017 and since then, Peaslee Tech has grown to offer 26 career training preparation programs and more than 700 online programs and courses. The programs and courses offered by Peaslee Tech support several important 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).

HB 2175 would enable the Douglas County Commission to offer a ballot proposition that, if approved, would levy a 0.50 mill property tax to support Peaslee Tech. The education and training offered by Peaslee Tech provides a clear return on investment for the citizens of Douglas County – and beyond. This is a vital chapter in the evolution of Peaslee Tech into a powerful resource for economic development.

Your support of HB2175 will help write the next chapter for Peaslee Tech. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Richard W. Hird
Petefish, Immel, Hird, Johnson,
Leibold & Sloan, LLP

MARTIN-SMITH PERSONEL SERVICES, INC.
1201 Wakarusa Drive
Building B, Suite 5
Lawrence, Kansas 66049

To: Members of the House of Representatives – Local Government Committee.
From: Shirley Martin-Smith, President Martin-Smith Personnel Services DBA/Adecco

It is my privilege to send this letter in support of HB 2175, allowing a ballot issue to form a special district for the ongoing financial support of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center in Lawrence, Kansas.

Established in 2015, Peaslee Tech is a catalyst for economic growth, providing technical training to a diverse community of learners to meet the current and emerging needs of our communities and employers.

The training center is fortunate to have the namesake of Dwayne Peaslee who was no ordinary person. He was a leader in uniting the business community and union members to support job creation. He wanted what the Peaslee Center delivers - great careers for our citizens who want to work and live in Lawrence and Douglas County.

Peaslee Tech is a combined effort funded by business and industry, the Economic Development Council of Lawrence, City of Lawrence, and Douglas County.

As a founding member of the Board of Directors, it has been gratifying to watch so many businesses and private individuals step up with their money, time and effort to ensure that Peaslee Tech would be here to provide training opportunities for today's workers and for generations to come. In today's COVID environment, Peaslee has been here to help reskill workers who lost their careers in the service sector and needed to have access to training for good paying jobs in new career paths.

Lawrence businesses have looked to Peaslee Tech to train, reskill and upskill their employees, ensuring they have the workforce to grow in Douglas County. Local labor unions count on us to grow the talent they need to bring into their apprenticeship programs. Industry partners have identified many of the training areas we offer.

Please vote in support of HB2175 to be enacted in the 2021 Legislative session, to enable the Douglas County Commission to make a ballot proposition to be approved by a majority of the voters. This proposition would levy a 0.50 mill property tax increase to support Peaslee Tech.

Long after this founding Board, and other citizens who were part of seeing this dream to fruition are gone, we want to ensure the dream lives on, and the Peaslee Tech mission is here for generations to come. There is so much more we are doing, and we welcome your questions, and invite you to take a tour of Peaslee Tech in person or online at www.PeasleeTech.org

Thank you for your time and consideration of passage of HB2175.

Shirley Martin-Smith

February 6, 2021

Kansas House of Representatives, Local Government Committee

Re: HB 2175

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for your consideration of HB 2175 supporting a ballot issue to form a special district for the support of Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center, Lawrence, KS.

The Douglas County community very much supports Peaslee Training Center's mission to grow a dependable workforce with skilled individuals. Peaslee offers a variety of different programs supporting several sectors. These courses include: skilled trades, healthcare, transportation, industrial maintenance, automotive technology/repair, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, facilities maintenance, dental, veterinary assistants and drafting/CAD.

I am asking for the approval of HB 2175. Passage of this bill will give stable long term funding so our community can continue a much needed asset for students and our Douglas County community.

Sincerely,

Patrick Slabaugh

Retired Bank President

Peaslee Training Center Board of Directors



February 8, 2021

Kansas House of Representatives

Local Government Committee

Dear Kansas House of Representatives, Local Government Committee,

Thank you for consideration of HB 2175 in support of allowing a ballot issue to form a special district for the ongoing support of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center.

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 continuation of the school.

Peaslee Tech is requesting HB2175 be enacted in the 2021 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 a 0.50 mill property tax fund to support Peaslee Tech.

Peaslee Tech is very important to Lawrence and the state of Kansas as we look to educate our residents and keep them working in Kansas.

Please give your positive recommendation to HB 2175.

Sincerely,

Jane Bateman

January 8, 2021

Kansas House of Representatives
Local Government Committee

Dear Friends,

I strongly support HB 2175 that will allow a ballot issue to form a special district for the ongoing support of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center.

Individuals in our area need the training being offered at Peaslee Tech to assist them in getting the skills needed to obtain better paying jobs while manufacturers and other businesses need the skilled workers that Peaslee Tech will provide. The passage of this bill will assist in providing long-term support for the Center and ensure the continuation of the training being offered.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jean Milstead
3029 Wellington Ct.
Lawrence, KS 66049



February 5, 2021

Dear Members of the Kansas House of Representatives, Local Government Committee,

Thank you for consideration of HB 2175 in support of allowing a ballot issue to form a special district for the ongoing support of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center. As an active community leader on the Chamber Board, Economic Development, Rotary, Behavioral Health Leadership Coalition, and other community organizations, as well as CEO for one of the largest employers in Lawrence, Kansas, I strongly support the work of Peaslee Tech and this effort to ensure its ongoing stability.

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. LMH Health, the sole community hospital in our county has been a significant beneficiary of this important organization.

Peaslee Tech opened in August of 2015 and has demonstrated its effective place in our community from the start and through its duration. Enrollments have grown dramatically over time from 100 to in year one to now having 26 career training preparation programs and more than 700 online programs and courses. Peaslee Tech offers all kinds of programs and courses to support Transportation, Building Trades, Skilled Trades, Industrial Maintenance, Automotive Technology, Auto Body Repair, Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC, Healthcare and others. At LMH Health we have been supported by their programs in both the Clinical Medical Assistants and the sterile processing technicians. These are two areas that have strong earnings potential for individuals and the ability to establish a career in healthcare.

As you probably know, Peaslee Tech is funded primarily by annual requests to the City of Lawrence and Douglas County, and tuition and, while this has been acceptable, we really need stable funding to ensure the sustainability of the school that is so vital to our community.

Peaslee Tech is requesting HB2175 be enacted in the 2021 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 a 0.50 mill property tax fund to support Peaslee Tech. Please give this your support for our community.

Sincerely,

Russ Johnson,

President and CEO - LMH Health