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Testimony in support of House Bill 2175
To the Senate Local Government Committee
March 11, 2021

Chair McGinn, Vice-chair Bowers, and fellow Local Government Committee Members:

House Bill 2175, the Dwayne Peaselee Technical Training Center District Act, would require the Board of County Commissioners to submit the question of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center to the voters of the county.

If approved by a majority of those voting, the existing board of directors would be dissolved, and a new board of directors established by resolution of the county commission. The district shall have the powers identified that include entering into contracts, acquire real and personal property, lease sites and buildings, and employ persons. The board would be authorized to levy a tax not to exceed 0.50 mills.

The training center has experienced significant growth and broad support throughout the community since it was established in 2015. The opportunities for skilled workforce training provide career opportunities for many Douglas County residents and provides a great balance to our institutions of higher education. The center has been receiving city and county funding; this would make that funding more permanent.

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce hosts a legislative priorities meeting before the start of every legislative year. This year at that meeting all the participants, the City, County, School Board, University of Kansas, and the Chamber expressed their support for this measure.

Others will be better able to answer your questions: I simply want you to know of my strong support.

Marci Francisco