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To: Chairman Billinger and Senate Way and Means Committee
From: Jason Rabe, City Manager, City of Beloit
Subject: Written Testimony in Favor of HB 2214

Thank you, Chairman and Committee, for allowing me to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2214 which would allow for the transfer of a 6.38-acre tract from the State of Kansas to the City of Beloit. A map of the tract has been attached to this document for your reference.

The City of Beloit has done a tremendous job of redeveloping and repurposing the former Beloit Juvenile Correctional Facility complex and adjacent farmland since 2010. The City of Beloit is currently working to fully develop our sports complex which provides quality of life amenities for our schools, civic club sports, and helps us attract/retain residents. This plan has gone through a strategic doing process with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, has fully developed concept drawing thanks to a Kansas State University intern, and has the full support of community stakeholders. An important initial step after developing our sports complex layout plan, is to acquire the property that was currently being leased from the Mitchell County Fair Board. During the process of purchasing the property, we noticed that a 6.38 tract of land that we initially thought would be part of the property purchase was in fact still owned by the State of Kansas. In 1964 the State of Kansas had granted a lease on this tract to the City of Beloit for a water tower, which was completed and standing today. By acquiring this final piece, we will be able to begin the process of implementing our plan. The City of Beloit asks for your support of House Bill 2214 which would allow for the transfer of this small tract of property to the City of Beloit. The City of Beloit is fully prepared to pay all expenses associated with the transfer. The City of Beloit will make full use of the property as we have the other formerly state-owned properties. It will be a key component for our sports complex and continue to serve as the location for our large water tower.

On behalf of the City of Beloit, I ask that the Committee support House Bill 2214. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Rabe
Beloit City Manager