



March 22, 2023

Sen. Renee Erickson
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th St.
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chair Erickson and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on HB2331, which would create Lehigh State Park.

The United Methodist Health Ministry Fund (Health Fund) is a 7-year-old, \$60-million health philanthropy located in Hutchinson. Our mission is to improve the health of Kansans. We focus on three strategic areas—access to care, Thriving Children, and engaged congregations and communities, a program aimed at addressing community health by engaging churches throughout Kansas.

We are very supportive of creating Lehigh Portland State Park. Doing so will contribute to the community's health and economic vitality of the region. By creating Lehigh Portland State Park, we can improve community health by establishing new recreational opportunities. The new park and trails will offer new opportunities for recreation and physical activity that will benefit many of our congregational partners and residents of the state. The park will also stimulate the local economy, creating new jobs and tax revenue.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide public comment on HB2331. Please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Jordan".

David Jordan
President and CEO
United Methodist Health Ministry Fund