



March 6, 2024

Kansas Senate
Ways and Means Committee

Dear Chairman Billinger and Committee Members,

Thank you for consideration of SB 529 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 32 career training programs, 26 apprenticeships 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.

Peaslee Tech is currently funded primarily by annual requests to the City of Lawrence and Douglas County, company funded training 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.

Peaslee Tech is requesting SB 529 be enacted in the 2024 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 create the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center District in Douglas County.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Kelley, PhD
Chief Executive Officer