



March 14, 2024

Chairman Billinger, and Members of the Senate Ways & Means committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Building Industry Association (KBIA) in support of SB 529. KBIA is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) with eight local building associations and more than 2,000 members across the State of Kansas.

SB 529 would allow the voters of Douglas County, at a public election, to choose whether or not to establish the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center District, funded by up to 0.5 mills of property tax. “Peaslee Tech” was established almost a decade ago to help fill a desperate technical training gap in and around Lawrence, Kansas. The founding of Peaslee Tech was guided by the City of Lawrence, Douglas County, the local chamber of commerce, Lawrence public schools and many local businesses and citizens to help fill this critical community need. SB 529 would provide the voters of Douglas County with the choice to provide a stable, reliable funding source for Peaslee Tech.

KBIA has long supported a robust career and technical skills pathway, from K-12 training to certificated programs at Technical and Community colleges to Board of Regents institutions. The Greater Kansas City Home Builders Association has partnered with a number of KC area high schools from KCKPS to Olathe and Spring Hill. Our Wichita Area Builders work hand in hand with Wichita Public Schools and WSU Tech, and our Topeka Area Builders Association helped develop several programs in conjunction with USD 501 and Washburn Tech. This is not a complete list of partnerships, but allowing our Lawrence Home Builders Association to continue to develop a training model with Peaslee Tech, providing training to new workforce entrants, and allowing existing employees the opportunity to “upskill” is a huge benefit to the construction industry and the residential home market as a whole. Providing this opportunity for a long-term, stable funding source is key to the ongoing success of this endeavor.

This training center helps provide a skilled workforce necessary to help address the ever changing housing needs in our communities. Thank you once again for allowing us to express our support of this bill and we ask that you recommend SB 529 favorable for passage.

Sean Miller
Kansas Building Industry Association