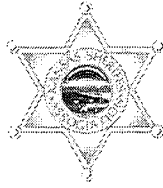


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February 14, 2013

Joint Committee on State Building Construction

Chairman Brunk and committee members,

It is our understanding your committee is considering the KBI Laboratory project in your meeting today. Our associations are extremely interested in this vital public safety project for our state. Over the past several years the issues of the capacity of the KBI and the resulting slow responses has created adverse effects on the criminal justice system in Kansas. The results of this lab capacity has been cases being dismissed or charges reduced because of the speedy trial limitations being faced prior to lab results. We also have documented local law enforcement agencies do not submit some evidence for analysis because they know they can't get timely results.

Director Thompson and his staff have been working very hard to find an affordable solution to this problem. The project before you today is our first ray of hope to resolve this deficiency. It is a sound plan to not only update the failing physical environment of the current lab, but also develops an educational partnership with Washburn university to develop future lab technicians who are in high demand and short supply.

It is critical to public safety for law enforcement to have the ability to get timely laboratory analysis. Especially when those results may identify a suspect or provide key evidence to give us the probable cause needed for an arrest. The longer the perpetrator roams free, more Kansans are place at risk of being a victim of additional crimes. Likewise, physical evidence and the analysis of that evidence is becoming even more important in successfully prosecuting criminals in our courts. But the worst case scenario would be for the wrong person to be facing charges that could have been cleared with the key evidence analysis.

We strongly urge your support for this KBI Laboratory plan. Without question, completion of this project will enhance public safety in Kansas.

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