



Salina Family Healthcare Center
A Federally Qualified Community Health Center

651 E. Prescott, Salina, KS 67401
Medical Clinic ~ (785) 825-7251
Dental Clinic ~ (785) 826-9017
Pharmacy ~ (785) 452-3900

March 5, 2017

Kansas House of Representatives
Attn: Steven Johnson, Chairperson
House Taxation Committee

Re: HOUSE BILL No. 2146

Dear House Taxation Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony in support of House Bill 2146. I am the CEO of the Salina Family Healthcare Center and the Program Director of the Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency Program. From the viewpoint of the leader of a not-for-profit organization that has a mission of providing higher education, I ask that you support this bill.

The Kansas State University Bulk Solids Innovation Center, located in Salina, KS, serves as a valued resource to companies that design and utilize systems for bulk solids. Dry bulk solids make up more than 80 percent of items transported around the world, yet formal education and research about the science of these materials is not completely understood. The center is used to research and gain understanding of how to handle these materials.

K-State Polytechnic understands the importance of providing students and industry with research opportunities and cutting edge technology and equipment. This university-level research center is the only one of its kind in North America. K-State Polytechnic is the key tenant in the center, while two local companies, Coperion K-Tron and Vortex Valves, supplement the facility by serving as anchor occupants. The facility includes office space for researchers and six flexible bulk solids laboratories to allow for collaborative and proprietary research projects by the building's tenants.

This project was a private/public collaborative effort that includes Kansas State University, U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration, State of Kansas, City of Salina, Salina Chamber of Commerce, Salina Economic Development Corporation and several private businesses.

While I understand that not all of the tenant are tax exempt entities, the primary tenant is an institution of higher learning and the primary purpose for the facility is research and education. No individual or business is profiting from the use of the building. House Bill 2146 would provide incentive for higher education institutions such as K-State Polytechnic to embark on novel ways to provide research and education opportunities to students while advancing knowledge and bringing recognition and more businesses to Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 2146

Robert Freelove, MD