



1000 SW Jackson, Suite 500
Topeka, KS 66612

Phone: (785) 296-3011
Fax: (785) 296-2702
DeAngela.Burns-Wallace@ks.gov

DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Secretary

Laura Kelly, Governor

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee
From: Secretary DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Department of Administration
Re: Senate Bill 487

Madam Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for allowing me submit testimony on Senate Bill 487.

For background, in 2019, the Department of Administration's budget included a proviso that allowed us to engage with Clark-Huesemann Architects to develop options for the future of the Docking State Office Building. The report that Clark-Huesemann produced sought to respond directly to the requests of the legislature, as outlined in the budget proviso. The report included 4 main options for the rehabilitation of Docking.

Based on the details SB 487, this bill aligns with one of potential options for Docking that Clark-Huesemann presented. This option, along with 3 others, were produced by Clark-Huesemann and were fully vetted by the Department of Administration. These options have been presented to various committees, and to many individual members of the legislature. At each step in the process, there is clear consensus around the need to do something with Docking.

If enacted, this bill would allow the Department of Administration to reconstruct the Docking to 6 floors. A new building could include a modern conference center, a center for onboarding of new state employees, and space for historical and artwork exhibits. In this plan, parking lot #1 will be retained and can be fully utilized.

Modernization of the utility plant in the basement of Docking is included in the cost presented in the report. Along with a state-of-the-art design and construction of the building, an upgraded utility plant could meet LEED certification environmental standards, and ultimately save the state money in the long run on heating and energy bills.

Since I have been Secretary, I have taken a holistic view of the spaces that state agencies occupy. This year, the Department of Administration has conducted a survey of tenants to gain a better understanding of their needs, and what they will project their needs to be in 3 to 5 years. The simple truth is that state agencies will continue to need more space that best fits business practices.

This bill would also allow the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to have a modern testing laboratory, which they desperately need. Locating their new lab downtown would help facilitate their recruitment and retention efforts—its simply more desirable for potential employees to work in a modern facility downtown than an aging facility at Forbes Field.

The Department of Administration has been in contact with community leaders in Topeka. I've appreciated their partnership, and I look forward to working with them in the future. It is in the state's interest to ensure Topeka is a great place to live and work. The restoration of Docking, and a state-of-the-art KDHE lab will help to achieve just that.

As Secretary of Administration, I can say with confidence that a rehabilitated Docking State Office building can meet a great number of needs of the State of Kansas, now and in the future.

I'd be happy to answer any questions from the committee.