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TO: Senator Karin Brownlee, Chairperson
Senator Nick Jordan, Vice-Chairperson
Members, Senate Commerce Committee

FROM: Ashley Sherard, Vice-President
Lenexa Chamber of Commerce

DATE: February 14, 2007

RE: **Support for SB 242—Wet Lab Facilities Among Eligible
Bioscience Development Project Costs**

The Lenexa Chamber of Commerce would like to express its support for Senate Bill (SB) 242, which would designate the financing of wet lab facilities among eligible bioscience development project costs for which proceeds of municipal bonds may be used.

The emerging bioscience industry is already an important contributor to the Kansas economy. In addition to significant capital investment and millions of dollars in federal bioscience research funding, by January 2004 more than 20,000 Kansans held bioscience-related jobs, employed either as researchers and support staff at the state's universities or as researchers, management, technicians, and support staff at one of more than 160 bioscience companies currently operating in Kansas.

Recognizing its economic value and significant growth potential, a number of states are already taking steps to ensure their ability to effectively compete for future bioscience-related opportunities. To cultivate the strengths that make our state a natural fit for bioscience work and to remain a forerunner in the race to attract this important economic sector, the State of Kansas must continue to demonstrate its serious commitment to creating a supportive environment for the biosciences industry.

By enabling and encouraging technical infrastructure necessary to the development of bioscience products and services, we believe SB 242 would send a positive message and raise Kansas's competitive position in attracting unique bioscience-related opportunities across the state.

For these reasons, the Lenexa Chamber of Commerce urges the committee to consider SB 242 favorable for passage. Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.