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Testimony in support of Senate Bill 163
To the Senate Local Government Committee
February 14, 2023

Chair McGinn, Vice-chair Bowers, and fellow Local Government Committee Members:

I am once again appearing before this committee in support of creating the Dwayne Peaselee Technical Training Center District Act. Such district would include all territory located in Douglas County. This bill is different from the one the committee recommended two years ago because it includes the specific wording that would be placed on the ballot:

> *"Shall a Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center district be established and authorized to levy a tax not to exceed 0.5 mills on all taxable tangible property located in the district to fund the budget of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center as determined by the board of directors of the district?"*

The training center has experienced significant growth and broad support throughout the community since it was established in 2015. The opportunities for skilled workforce training provide career opportunities for many Douglas County residents and provides a great balance to our institutions of higher education. The center has been receiving city and county funding; this would make that funding permanent and allow for opportunities for major investment.

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce hosts a legislative priorities meeting before the start of every legislative year. Again, at that meeting this year, representatives of the City, County, School Board, University of Kansas, and the Chamber expressed their support for this measure.

Others are in a better position to answer your questions: I simply want you to know of my strong support.

Marci Francisco