

Testimony on House Bill 2136
House Taxation Committee
February 14, 2013
Harvey County Council of Governments
Bernie Koch

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to House Bill 2136, which redirects the dedicated 4/10 of a cent sales tax from T-WORKS to the State General Fund.

This testimony is submitted on behalf of the Harvey County Council of Governments, which includes Harvey County and the seven cities in the county: Newton, Hesston, Halstead, North Newton, Sedgwick, Burrton, and Walton. In addition, the Harvey County Economic Development Council also opposes House Bill 2136.

The T-WORKS program funded by the 4/10 of a cent sales tax includes two important projects in our county that are in jeopardy of not being completed without the sales tax funding.

Reconstruct interchange at 36th Street in Newton on I-135

This project will provide significant economic benefits by opening access to the new Kansas Logistics Park and accommodating large trucks associated with rapid new development at the park by two new major employers.

The Tindall Corporation is constructing a new precast, pre-stressed manufacturing facility dedicated to the manufacture of new concrete wind tower base systems, the Atlas CTB. The facility will be the largest of six the company owns and operates. The capital investment is \$66 million. Tindall expects to employ 200 persons by the end of the first year of production and 400 by the end of year three.

New Millennium Wind Energy is manufacturing an innovative “point of use,” high output, vertical-axis wind turbine. Eventually, over 350 people are expected to be employed at New Millennium, which will invest between \$20 million and \$30 million over a five-year period.

The interchange construction cost is \$14 million, but the economic impact is \$220 million.

US-50: 4-lane freeway, new interchange from one mile west of Anderson Road to Old Main in Newton

This project is one of the region’s top priorities. The project is a new four-lane freeway with a full interchange at Anderson, with U.S. 50 flying over Anderson and a roundabout on Anderson for north-south traffic and access to U.S. 50.

This project will improve the ability of area residents and businesses to cross U.S. 50 highway safely. Development in this area has hastened the need for this project. The construction cost is \$31 million.

On behalf of the Harvey County Council of Governments and the Harvey County Economic Development Council, please reject House Bill 2136 so these important projects can proceed.

Thank you for your consideration.