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**To: Chairman Steven Johnson and House Taxation Committee**  
**From: Jason A. Gage, City Manager - City of Salina**  
**Date: March 3, 2017**  
**Re: HB 2146 Written Testimony – IN SUPPORT**

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### **Request**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2146. As you know, this bill would amend K.S.A 29-201a by allowing for certain property used for educational or scientific purposes to be eligible for a property tax exemption. The City of Salina is very appreciative of your time to consider this written testimony and respectfully requests that you support the passage of HB 2146.

### **Reasons for Our Support**

We believe this bill is good for Salina and other Kansas communities for the following reasons.

- Innovation through is often born through partnerships formed by the public, private and educational sectors. Salina has demonstrated this with our Kansas State University Bulk solids Innovation Center. This facility would not be a reality without this partnership.
- While these partnerships have a private sector “commercialization” component, they very much function like a public or not-for-profit entity, often relying on funding assistance in the early stages of development.
- Kansas needs more of this innovation! It provides opportunities for our state to advance ahead of other states with regard to applied research, technical job development and local commercialization. In essence, it is a catalyst for technological entrepreneurship.
- Property taxation, while generally valuable to our community, can significantly hinder the financial viability of forming the partnership necessary to stimulate these activities.
- From a municipal government’s long-term perspective, we certainly place the need to create public-private-educational applied research above property taxation.

**Requested Action**

We believe this bill will truly unlock public-private-educational partnerships necessary to be a catalyst for applied research, innovation and higher quality jobs. As a result, we respectfully request that you support HB 2146.

Thank you for considering our legislative request!