



North Central Regional Planning Commission

109 N. Mill • P.O. Box 565 • Beloit, KS 67420 www.ncrpc.org
Telephone: (785) 738-2218 • Facsimile: (785) 738-2185

March 1, 2017

Kansas House of Representatives
Attn: Steven Johnson, Chairperson
House Taxation Committee
Kansas State Capitol
Topeka, KS 66603

Re: Salina Kansas State Bulk Solids Innovation Center

Dear House Taxation Committee:

Thank you for receiving comments on House Bill 2146 this session. With that in mind I am writing about the 13,000-square-foot Bulk Solids Innovation Center, is located in Salina, in the heart of America is used to study and develop the understanding of bulk solids materials handling, in turn enhancing the businesses that use these materials or manufacture the systems that convey, store and dispense them. This university-level research center is the only one of its kind in North America and only one of four innovation facilities in the world. Kansas State is the key tenant and leaseholder in the center, while two local companies, Coperion K-Tron and Vortex Valves help the facility by serving as anchor occupants. If property taxation is mandated for this type of facility the university will bear the burden.

More than 80 percent of goods transported around the world are classified as bulk solids. However, the formal education and research about the science of these materials is not completely understood. How they transport and how they behave during processing requires more examination. The \$4 million Kansas State University Bulk Solids Innovation Center was built with help from Kansas Commerce, U.S. Economic Development Administration, the City of Salina, Salina Economic Development Corporation, Coperion K-Tron Manufacturing, NCRPC administrative and financial assistance along with a host of major equipment donations to make it a state of the art facility for Kansas and the nation.

A research facility like this provides valid value to local and state economies through the processes they engage and through the export of services provided. In this instance, hundreds of university and commercial visitors come to Kansas each year to work with the facility and the expertise it offers, in particular.

Thank you for your consideration of House Bill 2146 and how it pertains to this important facility.

Sincerely,


Doug L. McKinney
Executive Director