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Representative Steve Johnson
Kansas House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Topeka, KS 66612

Subj: HB 2381, The Land Institute, sales tax exemption

Representative Johnson:

HB 2381 includes a sales tax exemption section for The Land Institute. Fred Iutzi has told me you have helped introduce and support the exemption. I believe the House Taxation Committee will consider the bill next week, and I ask you to urge the committee to approve the bill.

Even though the Land Institute is a small agricultural research organization devoted to developing perennial grain crops, it is doing work of large significance. It was founded in 1976 by Wes Jackson, and I serve on the board of directors. The work of TLI's researchers has been responsible for developing Kernza (Western wheat grass) as a perennial grain. TLI has a staff of nine PhD's doing other important and very promising research on other perennial grains.

Nearly all of TLI's three million dollar budget is spent in Salina and other parts of Kansas. The sales tax exemption will save TLI \$180,000 in the cost of its new research green house. That saving can be used to hire more researchers and further TLI's work in Kansas, the US, and worldwide.

I lived in Salina until I was 46, and I still consider myself to be a Kansan. During my Salina life, I had the honor to serve as chair of the Senate Taxation Committee from 1977 to 1979. Thank you for your support.

John M. Simpson