

Testimony

Senate Committee of Ways and Means

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Kansas State University

House Bill 2109

Monday, February 20, 2017

Senator Carolyn McGinn.

Madame Chairwoman and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Taussig. I am Associate Director of Planning at Kansas State University I also serve as the Chair of the

Washington Marlatt Park Committee. I am here today to ask for your support for HB 2109.

In 1940 Charles Lester Marlatt and his sister Abby Lillian Marlatt donated 160 acres of land in Riley County for a park as a memorial to their father, Reverend Washington Marlatt. Reverend Marlatt was a founder and the first principal of Bluemont Central College chartered in 1858. Bluemont Central College was accepted by the Legislature in 1863 as the state's land grant university, Kansas State University. In 1965, Seth Child Road (K-113) construction began, isolating the acreage on the east side of the road of 7.5 acres from the rest of the park's 152.5 acres remaining on the west side of the road. Kansas State University on behalf of the Marlatt Park Committee is requesting legislative authority to sell the 7.5 acres on the east side of Seth Child Road. This parcel does not contribute to the character of the park and is a potential liability. The funds from the sale of the land would be used for the ongoing maintenance of the park. The park remains a valuable resource to K-State for teaching/research programs. It is also used by the community.

The Washington Marlatt Park Committee is requesting permission to sell this property because it is a burden to manage a small parcel not connected to the larger park.

Thank you for your time and will stand for questions.