



Office of the President

**Testimony to the
House Committee on Taxation
Jerry B. Farley, President
February 23, 2021
House Bill 2315**

Chairperson Smith, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity offer written testimony in support of House Bill 2315 which would allow taxpayers to claim the Higher Education Deferred Maintenance Tax Credit for contributions to a technical college for capital improvements, deferred maintenance, or the purchase of technology or equipment.

Washburn University includes Washburn Institute of Technology (Washburn Tech), where we offer technical education to secondary and post-secondary students in Topeka and Northeast Kansas. We offer programs in building trades including construction, electrical, advance system technology, diesel technology, welding, mechanical trades, advanced manufacturing and needed health care programs including advanced health care technology, certified medication aide, certified nurse aide, practical nursing, surgical technology, phlebotomy, emergency medical technician, medical office assistant and medical office specialist.

One of the primary goals of Washburn Tech is to be responsive to industry and workforce needs in Shawnee County and State of Kansas. We recognize the importance of technical education and the benefits it provides to those who earn a certificate in a technical field as well as to the workforce economy. The Legislature's support of technical education, especially in the last several years, is appreciated.

Enacting House Bill 2315 would be an incentive for taxpayers to provide contributions to Kansas technical colleges that would be used for capital improvements, deferred maintenance, or the purchase of technology or equipment and generate needed dollars for capital improvements, deferred maintenance, or the purchase of technology or equipment necessary to train and equip students to enter the workforce with the skills required for the jobs of today and those of tomorrow. Washburn Tech does not have a dedicated source of revenue to fund its capital needs, so incentivizing taxpayers to contribute to its needs by offering them a tax credit is strongly encouraged.

Thank you for your continued support of technical education.