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**RICK KLOOS**  
19TH DISTRICT

**Testimony in support of Senate Bill 529**

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 14, 2024

Chair Senator Billinger, Vice-chair Claeys and fellow Ways and Means Committee Members:

I am submitting written testimony to this committee in support of creating the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center District Act. The district would include all territory located in Douglas County. This bill will have specific wording that would be placed on the ballot:

*“Shall a Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center district be established and authorized to levy a tax not to exceed 0.5 mills on all taxable tangible property located in the district to fund the budget of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center as determined by the board of directors of the district?”*

I have had the personal opportunity to tour Peaslee Tech, a training center with the mission to grow a workforce of technically skilled individuals. Established in 2015, serving Douglas County and surrounding communities, Peaslee Tech has developed 26 career training programs and courses. Such disciplines are within the field of Transportation, Building Trades, Skilled Trades and Healthcare. Peaslee Tech also offers apprenticeships and open enrollment in Industrial Maintenance, Automotive Technology, Auto Body Repair, Electrical, Plumbing, HVAC, Facilities Maintenance, Clinical Dental Assistant, Veterinary Assistant and AutoCad.

For several years there has been a skilled workforce shortage within Kansas. Currently, over 50,000 open positions remain for skilled trade in our State. Peaslee Tech offers the skilled trade training needed to fill the gap.

There is no cost to the State. However, the Kansas Legislature will need to enable the Douglas County Commission to prepare a ballot proposition for the levy of no greater than 0.5 mill property tax fund to support Peaslee Tech.

Senator Rick Kloos  
District 19