



March 8, 2024

The Kansas Legislature
Kansas State Capitol
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representatives and Senators,

City Hall

6 East 6th Street
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Lawrence, KS 66044

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MAYOR

Bart Littlejohn

VICE MAYOR

Mike Dever

COMMISSIONERS

Lisa Larsen
Brad Finkeldei
Amber Sellers

The Lawrence City Commission supports the passage of SB 529 in the 2024 Kansas legislative session. The City of Lawrence was a founding partner of the Dwayne Peaslee Technical Training Center (Peaslee Tech) in 2014. Over the years Peaslee Tech has become a major component of the City of Lawrence's economic development efforts by providing technical training to residents and area businesses.

In its inaugural year of 2015, Peaslee Tech had 100 enrollments. In November of 2017, Peaslee Tech was approved by the Kansas Board of Regents as a non-profit, post-secondary institution. By 2019, Peaslee Tech had more than 1,800 enrollments. Today, Peaslee Tech offers 27 technical programs and 19 apprenticeships, making it the largest provider of apprenticeship programs in Kansas. Peaslee Tech has continued to add programs to meet the needs of Douglas County employers.

Since its inception, Peaslee Tech has been primarily funded through annual requests to Douglas County and the City of Lawrence. We support the opportunity provided by SB 529 for Douglas County voters to determine the establishment of a special district for the long-term funding of Peaslee Tech, through a ballot initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig S. Owens".

Craig S. Owens
City Manager
City of Lawrence

