

STATE OF KANSAS

STATE CAPITOL
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7362
mtnoagw@gmail.com



TOPEKA

SENATE CHAMBER

MIKE THOMPSON
STATE SENATOR, 10TH DISTRICT
mike.thompson@senate.ks.gov

Written Proponent Testimony
SB 405
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee

February 8, 2022

Chairman Olson and members of the Committee,

I write today in support of SB 405, which conveys ownership of the Shawnee Indian Cemetery, located at 59th Terrace and Nieman Road in Shawnee, KS, from the State Historical Society to the Shawnee Tribe.

The cemetery, located in my Senate District, is of great historical and cultural significance to the tribe and includes burial sites of Shawnee tribal leaders, including Chief Joseph Parks and Charles Silverheels, along with the second wife and children of Chief Charles Bluejacket.

The original site was several acres and included a church and meeting house. The current cemetery site is approximately ½ acre and is surrounded by homes. In fact, I would argue that most people who drive by the cemetery do not even know it is there.

The Kansas state historical society and the Shawnee Tribe support the transfer. I support it as well. It is time the ownership of the cemetery be returned to the descendants of those buried there. I urge your support of SB 405.

Sincerely,

Mike Thompson

Senator Mike Thompson, 10th District