

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Olathe, Kansas, is one of the fastest growing cities, and Johnson County, Kansas, is one of the fastest growing counties in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Olathe Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business that promotes economic development and quality of life in the Olathe community; and

WHEREAS, the Olathe Chamber of Commerce has as a priority goal of fostering economic growth and a balanced tax base; and

WHEREAS, the promotion and continued success of the Johnson County economy and higher education is critical to the economic success and vitality of the State of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the Olathe Chamber of Commerce supports a continuing revenue source to fund the Johnson County Education Research Triangle (JCERT) and further to develop higher education research and degree offerings of three new facilities in Johnson County:

- University of Kansas Cancer Clinical Research Center
- The K-State Olathe Innovation Campus (Kansas State University National Food Safety and Animal Health Institute)
- University of Kansas Edwards Campus Business, Engineering and Technology Center; and

WHEREAS, one-eighth of a cent sales tax raises approximately \$15 million per year to be divided equally among the three projects; and

WHEREAS, the collection and distribution of the sales tax will be subject to oversight by the Johnson County Education Research Triangle Authority. This group consists of seven Johnson County elected officials appointed by: the Governor, Kansas Board of Regents, Johnson County Commissioners, Kansas State University, University of Kansas (2), and Johnson County Community College. This oversight and governance will ensure revenue is divided and distributed in three equal parts, remains in Johnson County, and is used for new initiatives such as construction, research and degree programs. Oversight will also guarantee revenue is not used as substitute revenue for existing higher education programs from the state. The Johnson County Research Triangle Authority will be required to provide annual progress reports and be subject to County and State audits; and

WHEREAS, each project will initially use \$2.5 million for bond and debt service to construct facilities, and \$2.5 million for operations, maintenance, degree programs and research; and

WHEREAS, the continuing tax will support operating and maintenance expenses of the three higher education facilities in Johnson County; and

WHEREAS, Johnson County will have the resources to provide better training and additional jobs, making Johnson County more competitive at a national level by providing new business in animal health, food safety, cancer cures and treatments, and pharmaceuticals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce supports the county proposed 1/8 cent sales tax which will bring significant economic impact to the Johnson County economy during the next two decades.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Olathe Chamber of Commerce, through its Board of Directors, encourages all of its members to support the Johnson County one-eighth of a cent (0.125%) retailers' sales tax to be imposed in Johnson County for the purpose of supporting projects and programs related to (1) medical education and life sciences and cancer research programs at the Johnson County locations of the University of Kansas Medical Center; (2) research and education programs in animal health and food safety and security at the K-State Innovation Campus in the City of Olathe; and (3) undergraduate and graduate programs at the Edwards campus of the University of Kansas in the City of Overland Park with the revenue from the tax being distributed in equal shares to the three institutions.