5214 W. 60th Terrace
Mission, Kansas 66205
February 19, 2025

Member of the Kansas House of Representatives
Federal and State Affairs Committee
State Capitol
Topeka, KS

Via: H.Fed.State.Affairs@house.ks.gov

RE: HB 2384

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am a past chairman of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area. The Shawnee Indian Mission in Fairway is a most important partner site. It tells important stories of Native American education, and significant stories about Territorial Kansas.

In my humble opinion, this site is one of the three most important Kansas historical sites. It was here that the Territorial Legislature known as the Bogus Legislature (when over 7,000 Missourians voted at a time there were little more than 3,000 Kansans), enacted pro-slavery legislation, while Free-Staters assembled in Topeka to write the first Free State Constitution.

These stories are priceless and there are few sites that better commemorate this most important chapter in American history.

While it is certainly important for Native Americans to be able to help tell the important stories at this site, they never owned it nor preserved it. It belongs to all the people of the State of Kansas. It would be a tragedy if our school children no longer have the opportunity to stand in this important place and visualize what life on the prairie in the 1850's was like and how this site played an important role in the lives of many Kansans and Native Americans.

Please, do not yield to the economic interests who undoubtedly want to build a casino on this site at the expense of our heritage!

Please deny your approval of this unfortunate and misguided bill.

Thank you.

Grant M. Glenn