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To: [House Fed-State Affairs](#); [Brian Bergkamp](#); [Ron Bryce](#); [Ken Corbet](#); [Kirk Haskins](#); [Leah Howell](#); [Steve Huebert](#); [Rick James](#); [Tom Kessler](#); [Bob Lewis](#); [Kyle McNorton](#); [Heather Meyer](#); [Silas Miller](#); [Brooklynne Mosley](#); [Dan Osman](#); [John Resman](#); [Louis Ruiz](#); [Clarke Sanders](#); [Stephanie Clayton](#); [Rebecca Schmoee](#); [Kevin D. Schwertfeger](#); [Paul Waggoner](#); [Jill Ward](#); [Sean Willcott](#)
Cc: [S MCGEE](#)
Subject: Bill Number 2384 - Opposition
Date: Sunday, February 23, 2025 12:37:24 PM

RE: Bill Number 2384

Dear House Federal and State Affairs Committee Members:

I **strongly oppose** Bill Number 2384, authorizing the state historical society to convey certain real property located in Johnson County to the Shawnee Tribe.

Reasons why the state **should not convey** the property to the Shawnee tribe of Miami Oklahoma:

- The Shawnee Indian Mission is a Kansas State Historic Site and the only National Historic Landmark in Johnson County
- The Shawnee tribe was not the first nor the only tribe here. The Kansa (now Kaw) were here long beforehand.
- The reason the Shawnee got involved was due to Chief Fish in the 1820's. Having converted to Christianity, the chief invited the Methodist to start a school for the children.
 - Children from twenty-two different tribes were educated at the school. **All tribes** need representation at the mission, not one. Efforts for inclusion of all tribes has been underway.
- The Mission is staffed by volunteers continuing to provide field trip tours for school children today. In addition to the historical role of the school there is a civil lesson. The site served briefly as the second capital of Kansas.

In addition:

- The Mission is widely viewed as the most historic site in Kansas
 - The Mission history is diverse and includes many different people as well as many facets of history
 - Built on aboriginal land of the Kanza people for whom our state is named. Lived here for centuries.
 - Trade School for 22 tribes
 - A voluntary trade school established at the request of tribal leadership.
 - Name was Ft. Leavenworth Indian Manual Labor School
 - All 3 Trails West - Supply outpost for Oregon, California & Santa Fe Trail.

- Last place all 3 come together
- Territorial Governor's offices
- First Statehood Vote
- Union soldiers stationed during bleeding Kansas to keep citizens safe
- Union encampment during Civil War and Field Hospital for the Battle of Westport and the Battle of Big Blue
- Public ownership is a 'big tent' that includes all people past, present, and future and provides the opportunity for the telling of history in all these diverse voices.
- Public ownership is the best guarantee for future generations that the Mission's history will be available for all.
 - The 3-way stewardship partners - State of Kansas (owner), City of Fairway (operator), & Foundation (volunteers, funding, planning, programs, outreach, inclusion) makes the Mission's longevity even more secure than any one owner ever could.
 - Last, looking to the future, conveying the property will have a negative effect on surrounding property values.

I will be grateful if you opposed Bill Number 2384

Respectfully,

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