
Mark W. Mai

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KS Senate Assesment and Taxation Committee

Chair Caryn Tyson
300 SW 10th ST
Room 123E
Topeka KS 66612

Dear Senate Taxation Committee,

My name is Mark W. Mai, I am a life-long resident of Russell county. I have been a farmer and business owner for 50 years in Russell county. I am involved in the USD 407 steering committee. The steering committee has toured all the buildings in the district to look at all of the things that are in need of attention and repair. We have been working with the Schaefer Architect Firm, and they have looked at the buildings and given us an updated cost to repair the current buildings versus building a new one. The cost of repairs outweigh the cost to build a new building. With that being said it was the steering committee's decision to pursue a bond issue with a countywide sales tax to help lower the impact on the property owners. Me, as a business owner and farmer of Russell county, I support the bond and the proposed increase in sales tax. I have talked to many of my customers in Russell county and they would also like the bond to have a countywide sales tax attached to it. This sales tax would not only help USD 407, but also the other 3 districts that have land in Russell county.

As a business owner, I am hopeful that more people would move to or stay in Russell for employment opportunities, which we currently struggle with finding qualified individuals to fill the positions, as do several other businesses in the community. It would also mean more tax revenue for the city, county, and state. We would hope it would bring more revenue for all the local businesses in the Russell county area.

USD 407 in recent years has started a CTE program, where students can take welding, CNA classes, food management, industrial arts, and media classes just to name a few. Upon graduation these students are obtaining workforce certificates, and are ready to be placed in the workforce. There are alot of

these jobs that these students could obtain right here in our community and having a new school building would be a way to keep them right here at home where they could raise their families.

I hope that Legislators will pass this bill, so the residents of Russell county can at least have the opportunity to vote on the sales tax locally to support all the students of Russell county.

Sincerely

Mark W. Mai