

OFFICE
ROOM 134-E
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612
(785) 296-7376; (785) 296-0103/FAX
David.Haley@senate.ks.gov

STATE OF KANSAS



DISTRICT
CIVIC CENTER STATION
POST OFFICE BOX 171110
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS 66117
(913) 321-3210; (913) 321-3110/FAX
SenHaley@aol.com

SENATE CHAMBER

DAVID B. HALEY
SENATOR
DISTRICT 4
WYANDOTTE COUNTY

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE / February 12, 2025

RE: SCR 1606. Creation of a PORT AUTHORITY in Wyandotte County / Kansas City, Kansas.

SUPPORT

Chairman Alley, Vice-Chair Owens, Ranking Member Ware, Members of Senate Commerce Committee:

Thank you for hearing this short but crucial resolution which, if forwarded by you to the Committee of the Whole, will simply allow the Unified Government of Wyandotte County / Kansas City, Kansas (hence "Unified Government" or "UG") to create a port authority in the County. More accurately, this SCR will allow the UG to RE-create a port authority for Wyandotte County. Just last year (2024), this Committee heard and passed out to the Committee of the Whole on the Consent Calendar, an identical SCR (1620) which passed the Senate but died in the House after being bundled into another measure.

Wyandotte (well, Kansas City, to be exact) had its Port Authority for a half-century. The authority was dismantled to give latitude to a new General Motors manufacturing plant which too consumed the Kansas City, KS airfield (with one of the longest runway-landing strips in the Midwest) as well.

That Port Authority and airfield share many examples of economic development and success for Kansas. For example, during World War II, the aviation industry (often championed by businessman then US Senator Harry Darby) heavily relied on initiatives and leadership accessibility of the KCK Port Authority.

It has only been required since 1981 that a Kansas entity needs legislative consent to form an authority. Since then, concurrent resolutions have passed the legislature unanimously authorizing port authorities for Pittsburg (2001); Grant Morton, Stanton and Stevens counties (2007); and Stafford (2014). Ironically, the SCR enabling Stafford's port authority was 11 years ago this month! Proponents to *that* SCR in 2014, with wording practically identical to SCR 1606 before you here, included: KDOT; KS Grain & Feed; KS Farm Bureau; KS Motor Carriers; others. There were no opponents.

Mister Chair and members, please again support this legislative initiative enabling prospects for Wyandotte County to have another viable economic development tool to our full Senate.

Thank you again.

Respectfully Submitted,

- David Haley, J.D. (WY)
- Senator (4th) / Kansas