



March 14, 2025

Chairman and Committee members,

On behalf of the Miami County Commissioners, we support Senate Bill 146, which would allow the City of Osawatomie additional time to develop the property designated as the Northland.

This property was initially granted to the city for development purposes one year before the 2007 flood, an event that impacted much of southeast Kansas and was a federally declared disaster. The local economy has since survived the housing downturn, which began in 2008, and COVID. Throughout that time, city leaders have never lost sight of their long-term goal of developing the property. They have engaged professionals to assist them with master planning exercises, have completed utility construction estimates, adopted zoning regulations, and utilized a master developer agreement.

Utilizing connections provided by the Kansas Department of Commerce and the Kansas City Area Development Council, they have pursued projects and made it to the final round of consideration on numerous occasions. One factor seems to be the common hurdle those projects have cited – the lack of utilities.

A BASE grant awarded by the Kansas Department of Commerce is helping to extend wastewater to the property. Construction will be completed later this year. When you couple that investment with the city's commitment to improving access to water, the sites become much more viable for development.

I hope you will support this effort to grant them more time to complete this work and realize their vision of more jobs and capital investment in our area.

Sincerely,

George Pretz,  
Board of County Commissioners  
Miami County, Kansas