



April 26, 2012

Lawrence City Commissioners
Six E. Sixth Street
Lawrence KS 66044

Douglas County Commissioners
1100 Massachusetts Street
Lawrence KS 66044

Re: Proposed Structure for the Lawrence/Douglas County/Chamber
Commerce Partnership

Dear Commmissioners:

Growing the tax base in Lawrence and Douglas County is critical to its ability to provide the services its residents expect. Competition between communities in this arena is intense. Our ability to successfully create new jobs in this environment requires collaboration, cooperation and an ability to respond rapidly to seize opportunities that benefit our community.

The Lawrence Chamber of Commerce is asking the City and County to join with us to build an organization that better positions Lawrence and Douglas County to succeed in the increasingly challenging field of job creation, business recruitment and business retention.

The objective in establishing this partnership is to create an organization that enhances the relationship between the business community, the City and County and which can respond rapidly to emerging business opportunities. The partnership will establish policies to support thoughtful, positive growth within our community and create jobs for its residents.

We believe this new partnership will benefit our community in many ways:

- Attracting new businesses to Lawrence and Douglas County
- Encouraging existing businesses to grow in the community
- Creating new jobs for residents
- Creating new jobs for our graduates
- Enhancing the tax base to fund necessary City and County services that benefit all Douglas County residents

This partnership will include a Joint Economic Development Council (JEDC) and an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will consist of the Lawrence City Manager, the Douglas County Administrator and the CEO of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce.

The JEDC will be comprised of the Executive Committee, and representatives from the Lawrence City Commission; the Douglas County Commission; the University of Kansas; the Bioscience & Technology Business Center; and three local businesses. In addition, the City Administrators of Baldwin and Eudora will be invited to serve as ex-officio members of the JEDC. See the attached chart for a detailed look at the organizational structure and reporting relationships.

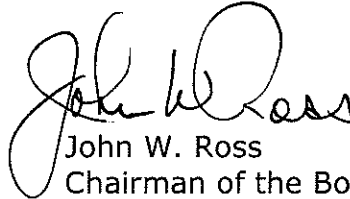
We believe this new structure will strengthen our public and private job growth partnerships and allow the communities to more effectively recruit new businesses that create quality jobs for the residents of Lawrence and Douglas County.

On behalf of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, we encourage your support of the proposed structure. Once this partnership is approved by the City and County Commissions, we will jointly determine our business model, develop our bylaws and identify a name for the new organization that reflects our commitment to job creation and the long-term economic wellbeing of our community. We look forward to working with you to attract and grow new jobs in Lawrence and throughout Douglas County.

Sincerely,



Hank Booth
Interim President/CEO
Lawrence Chamber of Commerce



John W. Ross
Chairman of the Board
Lawrence Chamber of Commerce