

March 11, 2022

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2732 - Gage Park Improvement Authority.

My name is David Callanan. I'm the founder of Advisors Excel, one of the largest employers in Topeka and a thriving, successful, growing business. Quality of life is critical to our employee recruitment and retention. Gage Park is critical to the quality of life of our community.

Gage Park and the Topeka Zoo have been a favored destination of my family. We invest personal support into the Topeka Zoo and the park to insure it will continue to be a cherished asset for generations to come. My wife serves on the Board of Friends of the Topeka Zoo.

With a history greater than 100 years, Gage Park has established itself as one of the best family parks in the country. Its amenities not only enhance the quality of life for residents of Topeka and Shawnee County but also for the hundreds of thousands of people that visit Topeka from around Northeast Kansas. Because of its wide base of users, giving local voters the opportunity to transition public funding from property tax to sales tax makes practical sense.

The future success of Gage Park is critical to the future success of our community. Creating the Gage Park Improvement Authority empowers the local community to guide the future of the park. Creating the Gage Park Improvement Authority is the best approach to ensure future success for Gage Park. I ask you to support with me HB 2732.

Sincerely,



David Callanan  
Founder  
Advisors Excel