Chairman McLeland, I am Barry Swanson, Director of Purchasing and Strategic Sourcing for the University of Kansas, Lawrence campus and I am here to testify in support of H.B. 2415.

The University of Kansas appreciates the Committee’s attention to this legislation. Over the years the Legislature has stressed to all state agencies the importance of being good stewards of taxpayer dollars. The University of Kansas takes this very seriously and continually looks for opportunities to become more efficient in its operations.

Passage of this legislation would allow state universities to gain full control over their supply chain and thus be able to design the most efficient and effective program for their institution.

For example, some of the equipment utilized at a major research institution like KU is very specialized and very technical in its use and operation and is therefore of value to a limited number of persons, companies or institutions. While the piece of equipment may have remaining value, it often has a very limited market due to its unique function and operation. The people in the University labs that use the equipment know their colleagues across the nation and are the ones best suited to determine the best market for its sale.

The additional authority gained through the state surplus property exemption when combined with the purchasing authority granted by the expansion of KSA 76-769 would allow institutions cradle to grave control over their property acquisition, use, and disposal processes.

The ability to design and operate an institution specific surplus program would increase opportunities for reuse (green and sustainability related programs) of property at the institution as well as facilitate revenue generation opportunities.

I would be happy to answer any questions.