

WE NEED OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS TO ACT NOW!

On Thursday, February 27, the Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation and its partners, the Kansas Historical Society and the City of Fairway, learned about the introduction of SB 518 in the Kansas Legislature that, if passed, would convey the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site and to the Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation headquartered in Mayetta, KS. **The Bill is currently sitting in the Senate Commerce Committee with a Hearing schedule Wednesday, March 4th at 1:30 p.m.**

The Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation and its partners remain resolute in our position that Shawnee Indian Mission remain a publicly owned and publicly available place where all are welcome to visit and learn of its historic significance.

The greatest concerns surrounding conveyance center around three key points:

1. Loss of history – Should the site be conveyed, there is no guarantee of the public’s ability to visit the site and learn about its long and significant history not just for the 22 Tribes who sent children to the school, but also for those who inhabited the land before the school opened, for the beginning of Kansas Statehood, Bleeding Kansas, the Trails West and the Civil War. These are just a few examples of the countless pieces of history that come together to create the Shawnee Indian Mission.
2. Loss of comprehensive, fact-based educational opportunities for future generations – In addition to the loss of physical history, the Mission would no longer serve as a fact-based educational institution. Generations of Kansans and beyond have visited the site to learn of its historical significance not just to First Americans, but also its significance in westward expansion, the Civil War and the early stages of Kansas history. If the Kansas Legislature gives the site away, they are giving away educational opportunities for generations to come.
3. Future use of the land – The Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation cannot commit or guarantee what tribal leaders, now or in the future, will decide what to do with the land if it is conveyed to them. Case law is clear. There are pathways for the Prairie Band Potawatomie to attempt to immediately or in the future claim the land as sovereign. In doing so, both the State of Kansas and the City of Fairway could lose jurisdictional authority over how the land is used.

Instructions for how to submit your testimony are on the [Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation website](#) (testimony is due Monday, March 2 at 7:00 p.m.). There is an example of a testimony as well.

If you’d like, you can also email the members of the Senate Commerce Committee to let them know your opposition as well:

Senator	Larry Alley, Chair	Larry.Alley@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Tory Marie Blew	ToryMarie.Blew@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Brenda Dietrich	Brenda.Dietrich@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Oletha Faust Goudeau, Ranking Minority Member	Oletha.Faust-Goudeau@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Jeff Klemp	Jeff.Klemp@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Rick Kloos	Rick.Kloos@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Silas Miller	Silas.Miller@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Stephen Owens, Vice Chair	Stephen.Owens@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Ronald Ryckman	Ron.Ryckman@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Kenny Titus	Kenny.Titus@senate.ks.gov
Senator	Caryn Tyson	Caryn.Tyson@senate.ks.gov

Thank you for your support of the Mission!

Shawnee Indian Mission Foundation Board of Directors