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TO: Senator McGinn and Members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Trudy Aron, Hon. AIA, CAE, Executive Director

RE: **Opposition to HB 2755**

Good Morning Senator McGinn and the Ways and Means Committee. I am Trudy Aron of the American Institute of Architects in Kansas. Thank you for allowing us to testify in opposition to HB 2755.

AIA Kansas is a statewide association of architects and intern architects. Most of our 600 members work in over 100 private practice architectural firms designing a variety of project types for both public and private clients. Our members are designing tomorrow's buildings today, aiming to meet the "triple bottom line:" buildings that are affordable, protect the health of the building occupants, and respect our environment.

AIA Kansas strongly opposes the removal of the State's involvement in the design and construction of new buildings at the State Fairground as stipulated in lines 16-18. The design and construction of a building is a complex process requiring the input and expertise of a design team that includes architects, engineers, and other consultants. The Department of Administration through the Office of Facilities and Property Management (OFPM) has the personnel and expertise to assist the State Fair in the design and construction of state buildings.

OFPM utilizes a selection process that best insures a fair and open process for the selection of architects and contractors, along with compliance procedures and building code requirements designed to provide safe, well-built project for the public. Please note: this bill removes the building code review process for these buildings. **This is a major safety concern for any building that will be occupied by thousands of citizens in any given year.**

AIA Kansas urges you to remove line 16 beginning with the word "Notwithstanding" through line 18. Our State buildings should incorporate life safety measures, be affordable, energy efficient, and durable. The current state statutes were adopted precisely for these reasons, and should also be applied to this project.

Thank you, I'm in the audience and will be happy to answer any questions.