



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Kansas

Affiliated with:
American Council of Engineering Companies
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
National Society of Professional Engineers
Professional Engineers in Private Practice

TESTIMONY

TO: SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

**FROM: SCOTT HEIDNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ACEC of KANSAS**

RE: SB 285

DATE: JANUARY 24, 2018

Madame Chair, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today. My name is Scott Heidner, and I'm here in my role as Executive Director for the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC of Kansas). ACEC of Kansas is the trade association representing private consulting engineering businesses in Kansas.

We are here today in support of SB 285. SB 285 is the appropriate and necessary next step to get transportation infrastructure reprioritized and funded again in Kansas. The T-Works program is drawing near its natural conclusion, and the lack of currently available funds make its final years far less productive than had been anticipated. This adds additional intensity to the need for another comprehensive, long term transportation infrastructure program.

Investment in transportation infrastructure brings a myriad of benefits to Kansas. It creates and sustains jobs, improves public safety, enhances the attractiveness of Kansas to new and existing businesses, and allows us to harness new and more efficient technologies that will save costs over the long term.

SB 285 calls for no new spending, it simply brings the appropriate group of stakeholders and policy makers together to begin the necessary study of the needs of Kansas and explore what the next program might look like. The information this group produces will be extremely helpful to the Kansas Legislature as policy is made beyond the 2018 Legislative session.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today, and I would be glad to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Scott Heidner, Executive Director

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