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**Testimony in Opposition of HB 2137 from Johnnie Koger
House Transportation and Public Safety Budget Committee
March 6, 2013**

Good afternoon, Chairman Peck and members of the Committee. I am Johnnie Koger, voluntary Co-Chairman of Economic Lifelines. We are a coalition of organizations and community groups which provide grassroots support for Comprehensive Transportation Programs in the State. Our membership includes cities, counties, Chambers of Commerce, airports, short-line rail, transit providers, construction workers and engineers and we are united in our opposition to HB 2137.

Economic Lifelines appreciates the support from Governor Brownback to fully fund and deliver the 2010 T-WORKS program and we commend the Governor and Secretary King for their pledge to all Kansans to deliver the program as promised.

The 10-year T-WORKS program creates 175,000 jobs throughout the State and has been part of Governor Brownback's Roadmap for Kansas as it increases private sector employment and attracts new businesses to the State. As the Governor has stated, economic activity and job creation are the best solutions for a budget shortfall and the jobs created by the T-WORKS program are, in fact, driving the economy.

The State must stop relying on transportation-dedicated funding as a readily available source of funds. This vehicle modernization surcharge was utilized as part of the overall funding mechanism for T-WORKS. If this is allowed to sunset, that would result in a loss of nearly \$16 million per year to KDOT and would amount to a loss of \$112 million over the next seven years to T-WORKS.

We believe taxpayer provided funds are to be used for their intended purpose, promises made should be promises kept. We ask that you vote against HB 2137. Support what is best for the State of Kansas, for job creation, and for economic development, please fully fund T-WORKS as promised. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.