



AIA Kansas
A Chapter of the American
Institute of Architects

March 6, 2007

TO: Senate Utilities Committee
FROM: Trudy Aron, Executive Director
RE: Support of HB 2485

Good Morning Chairman Emler and Members of the Committee, I am Trudy Aron, Executive Director of the American Institute of Architects in Kansas (AIA Kansas.) I am here to testify in support of HB 2485.

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Executive Director
Trudy Aron, Hon. AIA

AIA Kansas is a statewide association of architects and intern architects. Most of our 700 members work in over 120 private practice architectural firms designing a variety of project types for both public and private clients. The rest of our members work in industry, government and education where many manage the facilities of their employers and hire private practice firms to design new buildings and to renovate or remodel existing buildings.

HB 2485 requires that the design of any public building construction shall conform to the International Energy Conservation Code 2006 (IECC 2006) or shall be made using life cycle cost methods and procedures. AIA Kansas believes that this bill is a good first step to sustainable design and, more specifically, high-performance buildings.

Hans Nettelblad testified before your committee on February 8th that there was an immediate need to strengthen the State of Kansas' commitment to high-performance buildings. As he told the committee sustainable design is a holistic design and decision-making process which considers all three elements of the triple bottom line equally and concurrently when designing a high-performance building, community, or landscape. **The health and productivity of the user, the impact on our natural resources and environment, and the distinct and quantifiable fiscal advantages** resulting from this balanced approach are interdependent from the beginning of the design process, and continuing on through the **lifetime operation of the building**.

We believe that requiring lifecycle analysis is a great way to "prove" that the building meets a high performance standard. However, IECC won't get us there alone. And, without some guideline that public owners can use, we will not be able to compare one building to another to see what decisions made during the design and construction make the most sense to a particular building type.

We want to work with the committee during the remainder of the year to enhance this legislation to really make a difference in the health of our buildings, our environment and our pocket books.

We ask that you pass HB2485 out of the committee favorable and come back next year to make it even better. Thank you.