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TESTIMONY

TO: HOUSE COMMERCE, LABOR AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE

FROM: JARROD MANN
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF KANSAS

RE: HB 2395

DATE: MARCH 5, 2015

Mister Chairman, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Jarrod Mann, and I am here on behalf of ACEC Kansas to speak in support of HB 2395. ACEC Kansas is the trade association representing private consulting engineering businesses in Kansas.

HB 2395 increases the threshold at which a negotiating committee must be convened in procuring professional design services. The current threshold has been in place for almost a decade and is no longer a good reflection of today's economy.

The full procurement process currently in statute is outstanding. It provides for a thorough, qualifications based selection of design professionals on larger projects, and a simpler and less expensive "on call" process for smaller projects. "On call" design firms must go through the same thorough, qualifications based selection process used for larger projects before being granted an "on call" contract, thus providing the same assurances of quality and public safety while also allowing these firms to respond quickly and efficiently when needed on more modest projects.

There are significant costs in both time and money to the State, the agency and private consultants when going through the full procurement process for professional design services. For larger and complex projects, these costs are a necessary investment to ensure that the best overall project value is provided to the taxpayers. The new \$1 million threshold proposed in HB 2395 will ensure that the more extensive process will be retained for these larger and more complex projects, while also allowing the State to react quickly and cost effectively on smaller projects

through private consultants who have been previously vetted through the full procurement process to be selected as “on call” designers.

The bill also changes requirements for advertising of projects and public hearings. ACEC has no objection to this portion of the bill, but we are officially neutral on this proposed change.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today.