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TESTIMONY

TO: SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

FROM: PATRICK M. GOEKE, P.E.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF KANSAS

RE: HB 2177

DATE: MARCH 11, 2015

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Pat Goeke, and I am submitting on behalf of ACEC Kansas in support of HB 2177. ACEC Kansas is the trade association representing private consulting engineering businesses in Kansas.

Current state regulations and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) have combined with private industry to develop mechanisms for private industry to clean up soil and groundwater impacted by industrial and chemical operations.

Unfortunately, there are soil and groundwater conditions in Kansas where cleanup of the soil and groundwater to minimum federal target levels is not economically feasible. In these cases, a Risk Based Corrective Action (RBCA) approach is used to address the remaining impacts. HB 2177 will allow the KDHE Director additional latitude to use site specific factors in developing appropriate RBCA cleanup target levels. This bill will allow the Director to evaluate additional information when working with the responsible parties and consultants to restore the soil and groundwater to acceptable conditions at appropriate sites, while remaining protective of human health and the environment. Allowing the Director this latitude for appropriate sites provides technical and federally accepted tools to state regulators working with industry, while not creating an undue economic burden on industry. I recommend passage of HB 2177.

Thank you again.