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American Council of Engineering Companies  
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## TESTIMONY

**TO: SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE**

**FROM: SCOTT HEIDNER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING  
COMPANIES OF KANSAS (ACEC OF KANSAS)**

**RE: SB 463**

**DATE: MARCH 8, 2016**

Mister Chairman, member of the Committee, thank you for the chance to appear today. My name is Scott Heidner and I am here in my capacity as Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC of Kansas). ACEC of Kansas is the trade association representing private sector consulting engineering companies in Kansas.

We are here today in opposition to SB 463. There are numerous funding streams impacted by this legislation of concern to our members, including transportation funding, water funding, and funding for the Engineering Initiative Act. I know you have heard the data in support of these individual programs, so I won't spend time rehashing those. I want to focus on the impact of shifting these funding streams back to the state general fund (SGF).

It has been said about this bill, "why is this an issue when the legislature has the ability to control these funds already, including the ability to sweep them into the general fund?" This is undoubtedly true, as we have watched these sweeps happen. However, it currently requires a proactive step by the legislature to put those monies back in the SGF. This allows some time for reflection, debate, constituent contacts, and information gathering. These are healthy things. In short, the requirement under current law that the legislature has to take a proactive step to put these funds back in the SGF makes it somewhat less likely to happen.

If SB 463 passes, it will require a proactive step by the legislature to allocate these funds to the projects listed in the bill. The paradigm will flip, and it will become much easier *not* to do so. Especially when the legislature is facing a challenge in crafting a balanced budget in any given year.



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In each of the areas mentioned above, the entities using the funding streams need to be able to plan ahead as best they can. While the current system, as we mentioned, provides no guarantees on these funding streams, the changes in SB 463 will make them even more unpredictable, and therefore make it even harder for the agencies to plan effectively.

We encourage you to vote no on SB 463. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today, and I will be glad to stand for questions at the appropriate time.