



**THE CIVIC COUNCIL OF GREATER KANSAS CITY**  
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Testimony of  
Jason S. Dalen, Associate Director  
The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City  
In Support of Senate Substitute for HB 2149, The University Engineering Initiative Act  
House Appropriations Committee  
April 27, 2011

The Civic Council of Greater Kansas City appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 235 – the University Engineering Initiative Act. The Civic Council is an organization of 75 CEOs of the largest employers in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Our members include Don Hall, Jr. of Hallmark Cards, Terry Dunn of JE Dunn Construction Company, and Dan Hesse of Sprint. The Civic Council applauds Governor Brownback's inclusion of \$1 million in his proposed FY 2012 budget to jump start the Kan-Grow Engineering Fund that would be created by this legislation.

Similar to the State's hugely successful investment in building and growing the biosciences through the Kansas Bioscience Authority, the University Engineering Initiative Act is precisely the forward-thinking investment the State of Kansas should be making to stabilize and grow its economy for the future. This **investment**, and I stress **investment**, will help:

- To provide Kansas with a highly skilled workforce for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, prepared to fill not just engineering jobs, but jobs in a variety of related fields and industries;
- To foster economic growth and the attraction and retention of highly-educated, skilled workers;
- To leverage and expand on Kansas' existing strengths in engineering, science, technology and innovation; and,
- To provide a source of funding specifically for our engineering schools necessary to support the growth of this industry in Kansas.

Kansas City is a world-class engineering city, estimated to be the fourth-largest engineering community in the United States by revenue and has the largest number of engineers per capita in the U.S. As home and headquarters to engineering giants such as Black & Veatch and Burns &

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years, these industries and job sectors also are likely to weather any future recessions better than most industries.

The Civic Council strongly encourages you to support SB 235. Thank you for your consideration of these matters. Please contact Jason Dalen, Assistant Director, Civic Council of Greater Kansas City, 816-221-2263 or Sandy Braden, Gaches, Braden and Associates, 785-233-4512, for additional information or questions.

Respectfully submitted by,

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