



SERVICE - THE BARTLETT & WEST WAY.

**Testimony of Keith Warta, President of Bartlett & West, Inc.
In Support of Senate Sub for HB 2149:
Engineering Initiatives Act
Before the House Appropriations Committee
Wednesday, April 27, 2011**

Thank you, Chairman Rhoades, for this opportunity to support enactment of Senate Substitute for House Bill 2149 (the Engineering Initiatives Act).

I am a Kansan and a licensed Professional Engineer. I am also the president of Bartlett & West, an engineering and technology solutions company. During my tenure at Bartlett & West I have come to understand the economic benefits that the engineering profession provides our state. As evidence, Bartlett & West was established in Topeka 60 years ago by two engineers and today operates across the country with ten offices spanning from North Dakota to Texas. A national publication recently recognized our company as one of the 250 largest design firms in the U.S. Right now, Bartlett & West engineers in Topeka are designing water treatment facilities in North Dakota, overseeing construction in Louisiana for a major railroad and providing design-build services for a fueling facility in Colorado - amongst many other projects.

Our revenue growth over the years, which has benefited the state of Kansas, has been fueled by highly skilled technologists, particularly engineers. We have depended on Kansas engineering graduates to drive our growth. Without the steady supply of new engineering graduates our company would not have been able to grow to its current magnitude and without an expansion of more graduates our prospects for grow are jeopardized.

As an engineering graduate from both the University of Kansas and Kansas State University, I can vouch for the excellence of the local engineering programs and the value that they bring to our state by producing graduates who are in high demand by science and technology firms currently in our state and those looking to locate here.

The Engineering Initiatives Act will help address the most important workforce issue confronting our state - the availability of highly trained engineers. This availability is essential to almost every part of the Kansas economy; manufacturing, processing, aviation, energy, agriculture, and it is a necessary component of providing infrastructure that supports the health and safety of Kansans.

I urge you to support this very important bill.

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Appropriations Committee

Date April 27, 2011

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