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**TESTIMONY OF
ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF KANSAS
BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
HB 2149**

April 27, 2011

By Corey Peterson, Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc.

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Corey Peterson. I am Executive Vice President of the Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc. The AGC of Kansas is a trade association representing the commercial building construction industry, including general contractors, subcontractors and suppliers in Kansas (with the exception of Johnson and Wyandotte counties).

AGC of Kansas supports House Bill 2149 and asks that you report it favorably for passage.

Engineering is behind everything in our lives today. It is critical to construction as well as the manufacturing industries on which Kansas relies so heavily. To have the ability to increase the number of engineers coming out of Kansas is crucial.

AGC of Kansas has placed developing the future workforce as a top priority. The baby boomers are retiring and there are not enough young people coming into the construction industry to take their place. Craftsperson and managers have been AGC's focus, but the same could be said for engineers.

While I can only speak from the perspective of construction, we are fortunate to have universities in Kansas having engineering departments that are considered to be among the best in the country. To maintain and even improve this status, along with increasing capacity, it is essential that additional investment be made. HB 2149 will go a long way in providing this investment and will build on a strong foundation already in place.

Please vote HB 2149 favorably for passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Appropriations Committee

Date April 27, 2011

Attachment 8