



Kansas Society of Professional Engineers

A state society of the National Society of Professional Engineers

**Testimony of Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
In Support of Senate Sub for HB 2149:
Engineering Initiatives Act
Presented by Ron Gaches, Executive Director
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) on behalf of the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers.

The Engineering Initiatives Act will help address one of the most critically important workforce issues confronting our state, the availability of highly trained engineers. The availability of an increasing supply of engineers is essential to almost every major component of the Kansas economy; manufacturing, processing, aviation, both traditional and alternative energy technology, transportation, agriculture, construction and consulting engineering. Like most of our aging workforce, baby boomer engineers are starting to retire from the workplace and their escalating numbers will leave a huge gap in the availability of engineering professionals to perform their work. Similarly, emerging industries like bioscience, health care, information technology, and medical research are relying more heavily on the newly developing engineering expertise offered by our three Kansas engineering colleges.

We simply cannot meet the future workforce demands of Kansas employers and potential employers if we don't start investing now in the capacity of our engineering colleges.

Further, we cannot meet the future employment needs of our young adults without increasing the capacity of our engineering schools. CNNMoney.com reported last year that 14 of the top 15-earning undergraduate degrees are engineering degrees. The lowest paying of those entry-level positions last year started at \$54,000 and the top paying earned more than \$83,000. An increasing supply of young engineers is essential to the future growth of the Kansas economy. Passage of this bill takes us a step closer to having that capacity.

The Kansas Society of Professional Engineers is the state's leading professional society of Professional Engineers working in all aspects of the Kansas economy. With more than 600 members throughout all of Kansas, KSPE's mission is to support the professional and ethical practice of engineering.

Appropriations Committee

Date April 28, 2011

Attachment 3

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