



Kansas Economic Progress Council
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**Testimony on HB 2149
House Appropriations Committee
April 27, 2011**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 2149, the University Initiative Engineering Act.

I'm Bernie Koch with the Kansas Economic Progress Council, a statewide not for profit organization of businesses, trade associations, and chambers of commerce. We support pro-growth policies for communities and the state.

We support House Bill 2149 and urge your favorable consideration. The goal of increasing engineering graduates is one that fits in well with the objectives of KEPC. We support Kansas investment in all levels of education necessary to maintaining and growing a quality workforce.

Human capital and the efficiency of labor have been shown to be significant to growth in major economic studies. Measures of human capital include the literacy rate, which certainly applies in this case.

Another substantial contributor to economic growth is continuing technological innovation and improvement. Engineers play a significant role in these efforts, perhaps more so than other professions in our highly technical age. In the Wichita aircraft industry, this is particularly important. We find that many aviation-related businesses want to be in Kansas because we have the highest concentration of aviation engineering in the world. It is a major factor in the success of our aviation industry.

For these reasons, we support House Bill 2149 and urge you to pass it.

Thank you for this opportunity.

The Kansas Economic Progress Council is a not for profit designed to draw together organizations and businesses interested in advancing sound public policy in Kansas to enhance our state's quality of life.

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