



To: Chairman Richard Carlson and the House Taxation Committee
From: Randall Allen, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Counties
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2012
Re: HB 2747

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to visit with you about HB 2747 and its impact on the counties and communities of our state. On behalf of our members, I am here to express our strong opposition to the section of HB 2747 which diverts monies from the Comprehensive Transportation Program (CTP).

The multi-year CTP was enacted by the Legislature on the basis of significant support from Kansas counties and other local governments. Prior to its adoption, every single board of county commissioners in Kansas adopted a resolution urging the Legislature to enact a new multi-year program and identified their local transportation priorities, as determined through local processes.

Other conferees will speak to the impact of this proposal on jobs in the construction industry and other jobs that provide services to companies and employees in the construction industry. The economic impact of not delivering on some of the already-approved projects would be seriously detrimental to the State and its communities. Yet, what I want to focus my remarks on is the serious and negative impact on communities which are engaged in planning for projects and need to be able to rely on the certainty that projects are going to move forward as promised. In several cases, communities have made significant commitments to local matching funds for CTP projects. Their local land-use, capital improvement, and economic development planning processes need to be able to rely on the State to keep its commitment about projects well into the future. Additionally, many of the projects address serious safety issues, to prevent serious injuries and the loss of life.

In his budget address to the Legislature, Governor Brownback recognized the importance of the current Comprehensive Transportation Program, as well as the broad public support for transportation investments in Kansas. Our state has made quantum leaps to improve our transportation system, including roads and highways but also public transportation, rail, and aviation. On the basis of this

experience and our desire to learn from our past successes, we urge the committee to pull back on the section of HB 2747 which diverts monies from our Comprehensive Transportation Program.

Thank you for allowing the KAC to testify today, and thank you for the important work you do.