

# **Testimony of Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust (LECET) of Greater Kansas City**

February 16, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. My name is Payne Mendenhall, I am Director of the Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust of Greater Kansas City. I am appearing before you to urge the Committee to reject those provisions in HB 2747 that would divert revenues away from the 2010 T-WORKS program, for purposes of income tax relief.

The Kansas construction industry has faced historic rates of unemployment much higher than the general population. We desperately need the jobs T-Works will produce.

As difficult as it is to see the Legislature use transportation dollars to manage the state's budget during revenue shortfalls, it is completely unsupportable to see it happen when the state's revenues are rising. We believe the highway diversion provisions in HB 2747 to be poor policy for taxpayers and transportation users.

We urge you to reject the diversion of T-Works dedicated revenues. Thank you.