

The Honorable Richard Carlson, Chairman  
House Taxation Committee  
February 16, 2012

Re: HB 2747

Mr. Chairman and honorable committee members:

My name is Jake Klaver from Kingman and I am here representing Klaver Construction Company, Inc., of which I am president. I am also president of the Kansas Contractors Association. I wish to express opposition to this measure as it relates to funding for transportation in our state.

Passage of this bill will cause untold harm for my company and its 80 employees, all of the state's highway contractors, the suppliers who rely on these contractors and the state's economy as a whole. In a time when unemployment is of great concern passage of this bill would guarantee many thousands of additional people joining those ranks. This would be certain and immediate. Given the nature of many of our construction employees, men and women who were once productive and paying taxes would be forced to rely on the safety nets put in place by our state and its local governments. This doubles the negative impact of these job losses.

It is my understanding that passage of this bill will result in KDOT losing approximately \$350 million over the next two years. This is on top of the \$200 million taken from KDOT last year. I am not comforted by promises to repay the funds in future years as we have heard the legislature make these promises before only to have them go unfulfilled. And how does the proposed 2% annual spending cap affect such a promise?

Finally, there is a matter of promises kept, or not kept as the case may be. Communities from every corner of the state fought hard to get projects approved by KDOT. This process went on for years leading up to the passage of T-Works. Communities had representatives at the numerous meetings put on by Secretary Miller and KDOT and competed with other communities to demonstrate why their project deserved priority. Communities spent money on consultants to study the need for their projects. When T-Works was passed, many of these communities were rewarded by having their projects selected and scheduled for actual construction. Announcements were made and preparations were begun. This is where moral issue comes into play: Commitments made will not be lived up to. The rug has been pulled out from under communities from all over Kansas. My sense is that the people directly affected will not forget this lack of political will.

I encourage you, for the sake of this state, to not adopt the portion of this bill which would take funds from T-Works.

Respectfully,

Jake Klaver