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Economic Lifelines is the statewide coalition of organizations and community groups which provide the grassroots support for Comprehensive Transportation Programs in Kansas. Its members believe that the economic development and jobs that are generated by such programs are vital to the stability and growth of the Kansas economy and that of individual communities.

Testimony in Support of SR 1804
January, 25, 2012

Mr. Chairman and Senators,

A multi-year funding program both at the state and federal level is critical to the success of the Kansas transportation system. Legislators, who voted in favor of T-WORKS in 2010, certainly understand this important fact. Governor Brownback, who pledged his support to the program last summer and has since reaffirmed his commitment by maintaining the state funding source for the program through his FY 2013 budget, understands that as well. Without the flow of federal dollars through SAFETEA-LU, Kansas will not have the funds necessary to meet the promises made with T-WORKS. Federal funds make up approximately 30% of the KDOT budget but 40% of the construction budget. Economic Lifelines actively worked our congressional delegation last fall to secure support for the temporary extension.

Stable funding at the state and federal level will allow Kansas to maintain its transportation infrastructure, assist in attracting economic development projects and most importantly create or sustain nearly 175,000 jobs attributed to the program. As the Kansas and national economy begin a slow road to recovery, the federal government would serve its citizens well by following the lead set by long range thinking public officials in Kansas and provide for a stable source of federal funding for transportation.

We commend this Committee for introducing SR 1804. We ask the members of the Senate Transportation committee to vote favorably and advance this resolution to the full Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Lorenz, Chief Executive
Economic Lifelines