



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
of Kansas

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American Council of Engineering Companies
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers
National Society of Professional Engineers
Professional Engineers in Private Practice

TESTIMONY

TO: HOUSE COMMERCE, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: SCOTT HEIDNER
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(ACEC KANSAS)

RE: HB 2246

DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Chairman Kleeb, members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to appear today. My name is Scott Heidner, and I am here in my capacity as Executive Director of ACEC Kansas to speak in support of HB 2246. ACEC Kansas is the trade association representing private consulting engineering businesses in Kansas.

Peer review, as the name implies, is when a professional examines the work of a "peer" for critique and commentary. It is intended to improve the quality of design services and to promote the public safety by designing safer buildings, bridges, and other structures. Two set of eyes are better than one.

Some professions, most commonly the medical profession, already use peer review extensively and have statutory protections to shield them from liability. HB 2246 would extend a similar protection to licensed design professionals. Without it, firms are reluctant not only to hire an outside entity to conduct peer review, but even to do evaluation and analysis of their own projects internally. Peer review is typically not a lucrative line of work, so the fear of litigation costs makes most designers reluctant to engage in the practice.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today, and I'd be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.