



March 11, 2013

House Education Committee

Re: SB 22 - Extension of the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

Chair Kelley and members of the House Education Committee, my name is Keven Ward and I am a Public Sector Consultant with Trane U.S., Inc. I am requesting your full support for extending the Technical Education Authority.

Trane, a business of Ingersoll Rand is a world leader in creating and sustaining safe, comfortable and energy efficient environments that improve the performance of buildings and homes around the world. Trane solutions optimize indoor environments with a broad portfolio of energy efficient heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, building and contracting services, parts support and advanced controls for homes and commercial buildings.

Trane served as one of the host businesses for the recent Industry Skills Tour in support of the Governor's Skills Summit. More than a dozen companies and several Chamber of Commerce representatives were present along with Secretary of Commerce George and Deputy Secretary Copeland to sign the Governor's Skills Pledge. I also serve on several local career and technical education advisory committees and have been a close partner and advocate with Kansas stakeholders for the *Midwest Training Center for Climate and Energy Control Technologies* at the Washburn Institute of Technology.

Trane has made significant investments in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and Career and Technical Education, as we share mutual priorities for the development of highly-skilled 21st century technicians with other key stakeholders throughout the great state of Kansas. Our Trane team has demonstrated much of this through Trane's *BTU Crew*[™] educational programming for middle school and secondary students and our active partnership with the *National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3)* for secondary/postsecondary students as well as the adult workforce. The *National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3)* was established to address the need for strong industry partnerships with educational institutions in order to develop, implement and sustain industry-recognized portable certifications.

The work of the Technical Education Authority (TEA) is clearly focused on the needs of businesses like Trane. The TEA has been successful in moving technical education forward in Kansas and brought a focus on industry credentials and the connection of secondary and postsecondary technical education. The direction and push from the business leaders on the TEA will undoubtedly help provide a qualified workforce for Trane and other businesses like us. We need the continued work of the TEA to support a robust Kansas economy. Coupled with the continued support from the TEA, we are enabled to assist in developing industry recognized certifications aligned with the demands for a high-skilled workforce throughout Kansas and the region.

Thank you for your time. I respectfully ask that you pass Senate Bill 22.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keven R. Ward".

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