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Senate Education Committee

SB – Extension of the Postsecondary Technical Education Authority

February 6, 2013

Chairman Abrams and members of the Senate Education Committee:

My name is Ray Frederick and I am President and Owner Frederick Plumbing and Heating, Inc., a small business serving the Wichita area since 1918. I recently served as Interim President of Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) and have been an active business participant on the State Program Alignment Committees. I want to express my strong support of SB 22.

I first became aware of the Technical Education Authority (TEA) when I served on the WATC Board of Directors, and then later when I was asked to participate on the State Business and Industry Committee for Program Alignment of HVAC technical programs. When I learned of the TEA's commitment to not only listen to business and industry, but to "invite them to the table", and to encourage their participation all through the process, I knew I wanted to help. I served as a lead business and industry voice on the committee and we now have industry credentials delivered in all HVAC programs across the State. As a business owner, it is encouraging to know that I can hire a new employee from one of these programs, with the assurance the individual has successfully achieved an industry recognized level of competency. This helps my business be profitable and provides better service to our customers. The TEA is driving this change—and while it has not always been smooth or fast—it continues to advance the quality of technical education in the State.

The TEA needs to continue to help move our State system forward in order to keep pace with the increased skill requirements placed on today's labor force.

Thank you for your time and for your service on behalf of the citizens of Kansas. I respectfully ask you to support and pass SB 22.

Ray Frederick, President and Owner

Ray Frederick

Frederick Plumbing and Heating Inc.