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**Written Testimony from Economic Lifelines  
In Opposition of SB 35  
Senate Ways and Means Committee  
January 22, 2015**

Economic Lifelines is the statewide coalition of organizations and community groups which have provided the grassroots support for Comprehensive Transportation Programs in Kansas over the past 30 years. Our members understand that the economic development and jobs generated by Comprehensive Transportation Programs are vital to the stability and growth of the Kansas economy and our communities.

In 2010, this legislature, with overwhelming support from all areas of our state, enacted T-WORKS, the state's 10 year, \$8 billion transportation plan, funded primarily by a 4/10 cent sales tax. T-WORKS is delivering major new improvement projects throughout the state, making travel safer, and stimulating the Kansas economy. Since its inception more than \$600 million dollars has been diverted from KDOT to shore up areas of the general fund budget. If we continue down this path of diverting T-WORKS funds to meet general fund shortfalls, there will be significant detrimental impacts, including lower job creation and higher costs to maintain the road network vital to our farms and businesses.

Economic Lifelines is opposed to the proposed Rescission Legislation, SB 35, which would divert over \$150 million dollars from T-WORKS to fill part of this the current fiscal year's budget hole. We believe that further transfers jeopardize the completion of T-WORKS as it was developed and promised to Kansas communities. Major projects in FY 2017, FY 2018 and FY 2019 are at risk as are projects necessary to preserve our roads at a level Kansans expect.

T-WORKS projects are vital as they support the infrastructure needed to allow economic development. **Kansas communities are counting on this program which pledged at least \$8 million in**

**improvements for every county.** T-WORKS is a proven program for all areas of the state, supporting 175,000 jobs over the life of the program. Cuts to transportation work at cross purposes with economic development opportunities for all Kansas businesses and ultimately affect safety on our highways.

We urge you to support T-WORKS and the many benefits it provides and look forward to working with you to protect the transportation projects vital to local communities and the Kansas economy.

Johnnie Koger  
Economic Lifelines Co-Chairman