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Kansas Contractors Association

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Bob Totten, Executive Vice President
Kansas Contractors Association
SB 147
Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation (Written Testimony)

Chairperson Tyson and Members of the Committee:

I'm Bob Totten, Executive Vice President of the Kansas Contractors Association: an organization established in 1923 with a membership of 235 companies involved in the construction of roads and bridges throughout Kansas.

Unfortunately, investments in roads, bridges, and other vital infrastructure in Kansas have fallen by the wayside since 2012. If the governor's budget recommendations for FY 18 and FY 19 are approved with no increase in revenues or a comprehensive tax reform, a significant amount of revenue: a whopping \$3.4 billion dollars will have been swept to the state general fund since 2011. These sweeps, which are mostly sales tax dollars do not touch the gas tax as the gas tax is constitutionally protected to be used only for highway construction.

As many of you know, revenue for the state highway fund comes from a variety of sources: federal funds, bonds, registration fees, sales tax and gas tax but it relies most heavily on two streams of revenues: the gas tax and a portion of the state sales tax.

The Kansas Contractors Association wants to be part of a solution that protects the greatest number of Kansans and we welcome the conversation. Kansans deserve new ideas and SB 147 is a place to begin with an open and transparent dialogue.

Thank you Chairperson Tyson and members of the committee for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Bob Totten
Executive Vice President