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American Council of Engineering Companies  
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## TESTIMONY

**TO: HOUSE TAX COMMITTEE**

**FROM: SCOTT HEIDNER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
OF KS**

**RE: HB 2370**

**DATE: MARCH 12, 2019**

**Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear today. My name is Scott Heidner, and I am the Executive Director for the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC KS). ACEC KS is the trade association representing private sector consulting engineering firms in Kansas.**

**We are here today in support of HB 2370. HB 2370 is part of a package of policy proposals that came from the Transportation Task Force created by the 2018 Kansas Legislature. The fee increases contained in HB 2370 will help put Kansas back on a path of sustainable infrastructure investment.**



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**The last several years have seen a shortfall of investment in transportation infrastructure, due primarily to the sweeping of sales tax revenue into the state general fund that was intended for transportation investment. This has led to a critical shortfall in preservation and maintenance, and the severe delay in completion of several T-Works projects. HB 2370 would take a step towards correcting these conditions.**

**In addition to providing funding for transportation infrastructure, HB 2370 would provide certainty. Fuel taxes are one of the few revenue streams that cannot be swept into the general fund with a simple majority vote. This certainty in funding allows KDOT to maximize their purchasing power, utilize the best timing for procurement of goods and services, and ideally benefit from a better bond rating to lower the cost of borrowing. All of these opportunities mean more efficient investments and more savings for the Kansas taxpayer.**

**We recognize that this funding stream alone will not fill the needs of the transportation system. But it is a very important step, and will provide certainty to KDOT and industry stakeholders that will produce dividends for years to come.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to appear today, and I would be happy to take questions at the appropriate time.**