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TESTIMONY

TO: HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE

FROM: SCOTT HEIDNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING
COMPANIES OF KANSAS

DATE: MARCH 14, 2019

RE: HB 2371

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today. My name is Scott Heidner, I am the Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas. ACEC KS is the trade association representing private sector engineering companies in Kansas. We are here today in support of HB 2371.

HB 2371 is one of the recommendations that came from last year's transportation task force. The task force was formed to offer solutions to the growing needs for transportation infrastructure investment in Kansas. ACEC Kansas believes all options should be on the table for consideration as policy makers look for revenue streams to help Kansas meet its infrastructure needs.



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I know this Committee is well versed in the reasons to support infrastructure investment. Our highway and bridge infrastructure have been underfunded for years due to sweeps from the highway fund, resulting in deferred maintenance and delayed projects. Good infrastructure enhances economic development by ensuring the efficient transportation of goods. New technology means greater safety and accessibility to our state's infrastructure. And infrastructure investment means jobs and economic growth as money spent is reinvested in Kansas.

While we know the fees produced by this bill will be a limited option and will not single-handedly solve our State's infrastructure needs, it will be an effective tool in the State's toolbox as multiple funding options are hopefully put in place.

I thank the Committee for their time and encourage you to support passage of HB 2371.