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TESTIMONY

TO: SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

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

DATE: MARCH 7, 2019

RE: SB 192

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear 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 SB 192.

SB 192 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 funding options should be on the table for consideration as policy makers look for revenue streams to help Kansas meet its infrastructure needs.

It is our understanding that a recommendation will be made to move authority for tolling decisions from the KDOT Secretary, as described in SB 192, to the State Finance Council. ACEC Kansas would support such a change if it is considered.

I know this Committee is well versed in the reasons to support infrastructure investment. Our highway and bridge infrastructure has 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 movement of goods and services throughout the state. Infrastructure investment creates jobs and economic growth as money spent is reinvested in Kansas.



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ACEC Kansas supports SB 192's intent to allow tolling to be used to construct any portion or portions of expressways and freeways within the state transportation system including adding capacity to existing facilities. While we know tolling will be a limited option and will not single-handedly solve our State's infrastructure needs, this will be an effective tool in the State's toolbox as multiple funding options are put in place.

I thank the Committee for their time and encourage you to support passage of SB 192. I'd be glad to stand for questions at the appropriate time.