



February 16, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

My name is Brett Letkowski and I am a Principal and Senior Vice President at TranSystems. I am based in Wichita, and appear before you today in my role as Chairman on behalf of the South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition (a program of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce). Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in support of SB 116.

Because a strong transportation infrastructure is critical to developing and expanding commerce, the Wichita Chamber has convened key private sector business members and local governments in our region to form the South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition. Members of the South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition come from all across our 10-county region and include city and county governments, transportation agencies, and a number of private sector representatives both inside and outside the transportation industry. The Coalition champions transportation projects that have a positive impact on communities and businesses in our region.

SB 116 makes several changes to improve the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program (IKE) that was passed by the Legislature last session. The bill reduces the minimum \$100 million threshold that had been set for any project to use an alternative delivery approach down to \$10 million. This will allow more contractors to participate in these projects and provides the agency with more flexibility to use alternative delivery when it makes sense. SB 116 also removes the T-WORKS first phase letting requirement for new projects funded by federal stimulus funds so these infrastructure dollars can start working in the economy as quickly as possible. Finally, SB 116 includes a technical cleanup to allow the 18% debt cap to be calculated using gross revenue into the State Highway Fund instead of the current calculation based on net revenues after transfers to the State General Fund. This new calculation is more consistent with the bond rating agencies' debt coverage test.

On behalf of the South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition, I urge the Committee to report SB 116 favorably for passage. Thank you Mr. Chair and I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Brett Letkowski, Principal and Senior Vice President, TranSystems  
Chairman, South Central Kansas Transportation Coalition