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TESTIMONY

Date: March 14, 2019
Before: Senate Ways and Means Committee
By: Jerry Younger, P.E., Managing Director, KAPA-KRMCA
Regarding: SB 186

Madam Chair and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Kansas Aggregate Producers' Association and the Kansas Ready Mixed Concrete Association (KAPA-KRMCA) in support of Senate Bill 186. KAPA-KRMCA represents over 180 member companies that directly produce or support the production of rock, sand, gravel and ready mix concrete products. For every road, bridge, house or building constructed in Kansas, KAPA-KRMCA members likely provided some of the materials to build it.

Whatever part of Kansas you might call home or travel to, it's easy to see that our transportation infrastructure truly undergirds the ability to provide the mobility and economic opportunities that improves the quality of life of those throughout the state. Kansans have long recognized this connection as evidenced by the passage of three separate ten-year transportation programs since 1989. While there were differences in the structure and funding in each of those programs, and certainly challenges in keeping them on track throughout the full ten years, the important commonality is that the underlying premise of all three was that each clearly showed Kansas understood the importance of continued transportation investments. Each plan provided a commitment to the Kansas people and business community that our existing transportation assets would be adequately maintained and we would strategically construct new assets that improved safety and supported increased commerce - the things that help make Kansas a place for individuals and businesses to achieve success.

We don't have to spend much time trying to imagine what happens when our transportation investment strategy reverts to "crisis management" versus following a dedicated plan. Truth is, we can see those effects all around us today:

- Deteriorated road conditions, worsened even more by the winter weather, that reflect an inability to fund preservation activities at the level needed to maintain system health.
- Promised projects, important to the regions they serve, remain indefinitely delayed.
- Lost opportunity to stimulate the Kansas economy that results from the short and long term job creation and business activity associated with construction of improved transportation facilities.

Fortunately, we can depart from the recent past and restore our stakeholders' confidence that a plan will be formulated to provide them a transportation system that best uses the resources available to maximize safety, mobility and prosperity for all. The basic expectations of what that transportation vision should include were made clear by stakeholders across the state during last year's Task Force activities. SB 186 goes a long way toward fulfilling those expectations heard. KAPA-KRMCA urges passage of SB 186.