

# ACEC

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
of Kansas

Affiliated with:  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
Kansas Society of Professional Engineers  
National Society of Professional Engineers  
Professional Engineers in Private Practice

TO: MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FROM: SCOTT HEIDNER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ACEC of KANSAS

RE: SENATE SUB FOR HB 2149

DATE: APRIL 27, 2011

Chairman Rhoades and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Sub for HB 2149, the University Engineering Initiative Act. My name is Scott Heidner, and I appear today on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC of Kansas), the trade association for private consulting engineering companies in Kansas. We have approximately 70 member firms employing several thousand Kansans across the state.

We applaud your consideration of this bill today. In these lean fiscal times, we know how difficult it is to dedicate dwindling revenues to a new funding initiative. The return on this investment, however, will be fantastic. Engineering colleges in Kansas have struggled to accommodate the volume of students interested in the study of engineering. This bill would solve that issue and boost those schools to levels not seen before in their ability to not only accommodate more students, but to provide a quality of education that will make us the envy of our neighbors in the region.

As many of you have probably heard and seen, engineering is a field of employment that is expected to grow in the coming years. Even in this economic downturn, with many businesses downsizing their workforces, our experience is that there is still a need for more quality engineers than the market can provide. Engineers are an integral part of every exciting sector of economic growth in Kansas, including aircraft production, biosciences, alternative energy, and many others. Passage of this bill would take a giant step towards positioning Kansas for growth in forward looking industries.

We look forward to contributing to this effort if there is an opportunity to do so. Thank you for your time and consideration, and we look forward to working with this committee and the Kansas legislature to advance this important initiative.

Appropriations Committee  
Date April 28, 2011  
Attachment 4

Scott Heidner, Executive Director