



A DIVERSIFIED ENERGY COMPANY

Before the House Appropriations Committee
Senate Substitute for HB 2149
Testimony of Steve Johnson
Director - Government Relations, ONEOK, Inc.
7421 W. 129th, Overland Park, Kansas
913-319-8604
April 27, 2011

Chairman Rhodes and Members of the Committee,

My name is Steve Johnson and I represent ONEOK, Inc., a Fortune 500 company. I am also an Industrial Engineering graduate of Kansas State University.

ONEOK is the sole general partner and owns 42.8 percent of ONEOK Partners, L.P., a publicly traded limited partnership engaged in natural gas gathering and processing, natural gas pipelines and natural gas liquids (NGL). Our business in Kansas is manifested in the natural gas and NGL pipelines operating in the state, our NGL fractionation plants in Bushton and Hutchinson and our gathering and processing assets in Southwest Kansas. ONEOK also owns Kansas Gas Service, the largest natural gas distribution company in Kansas providing retail service to over 650,000 customers. We also own Oklahoma Natural Gas in Oklahoma and Texas Gas Service in Texas. We serve over two million customers in all three states. Additionally, ONEOK owns an energy services company marketing natural gas and related services to local distribution companies, industrial customers and power generators throughout the country.

ONEOK supports this legislation because we are experiencing and will experience a loss of qualified engineers due to the age of our workforce at all of our companies and the current expansion of our NGL businesses in Kansas, Oklahoma and North Dakota. Continuation of our other businesses in states where we provide service is also a priority.

Qualified engineers are in high demand especially those from the Midwest that want to stay and work in the area. It is imperative that we provide them educational opportunities in Kansas and do our best to retain their services in the state. This legislation will enable those students interested, to be provided the best our educators can provide and help our institutions of higher learning be on the cutting edge of these technical degrees.

ONEOK is currently looking for engineers to fill several vacancies and our first priority is to hire those that graduate from Kansas or Oklahoma universities. We find those graduates are more inclined to stay in these states and are not opposed to working in some of our rural areas where our growth seems to be at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony and please contact me if the committee has any further questions.

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Appropriations Committee

Date April 28, 2011

Attachment 2