

February 15, 2012

The Honorable Richard Carlson,  
Chairman, House Taxation Committee  
February 16, 2012

Mr. Chairman & Honorable Committee Members

My name is Mary Lou Reece of Wichita, Kansas. I am President of Reece Construction Co., Inc. I am here to express my extreme opposition to this measure as it relates to funding for transportation in our state.

We employers in the transportation business in this state need to know what the future is for our projects. Long-term planning is important for investing in equipment and building capacity in our organization. The TWorks bill, although much less than what was spent in the prior 20 years, is a long term program for maintaining and improving some the transportation system which we now have. This bill will decimate the TWorks program which has been promised to the citizens of this great state. This will happen soon by not allowing the \$350 million transfers for FY14 & FY15. Although there is a future "promise" to repay. We all know that particular promise does not have a good track record with the legislature in years past, plus this bill has a 2% spending cap which could and probably would interfere with that repayment.

Don't forget that \$200 million was taken from transportation just last year.

Absolutely KDOT will not be able to deliver TWorks as promised if this passes. Remember ALL 105 counties passed resolutions in support of TWorks in 2010, with the promise of delivery by 2020. THAT IS IN SEVERE JEOPARDY if this bill passes. Our government must continue to keep our promises to the citizens of this great state in order to have credibility. There is an example of a state next to ours which has failed to do that and has not been able to reestablish that credibility with its citizens.

Right now the State of Kansas is getting great prices for their work and this is a cost effective method for increasing both short term and long term jobs in the state of Kansas. We need the long term programs like TWorks in order to plan. One of the reasons this would be so devastating to our company and the jobs we provide is that we have been planning for this work. Pulling out midstream is very detrimental to those of us who have made investments counting on it and it will certainly mean less investment in businesses in our state for the foreseeable future.

Previously money has been taken from transportation to fill state budget gaps. This year THERE IS NO BUDGET GAP. Instead TWORKS is being raided for an income tax plan. The citizens of Kansas are getting a great value in the construction that is currently being contracted. Prices are low, while quality remains high. The Governor just advanced \$50 million in highway preservation projects with bi-partisan support. This is not the time to slow highway construction.

Transportation is such a critical issue in the state of Kansas. Both our citizens and our economy, especially our agriculture economy, depend upon our good road transportation to keep our goods, services and people flowing and our economy moving. We have done well, we cannot let that slide. Vigilance in keeping up a good transportation system is necessary to a flourishing economy for a landlocked state like our own beloved Kansas.