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TO: Senator Pyle and Members of the Senate Ethics, Elections and Local Government Committee

FROM: Robert Fincham, AIA, Government Affairs Chairman

RE: Opposition of SB 150

Good morning Senator Pyle and members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing the American Institute of Architects to testify in opposition to SB 150.

AIA Kansas is a statewide association of architects and intern architects. Most of our 680 members work in over 100 private practice architectural firms designing a variety of project types for both public and private clients. Our members are designing tomorrow's buildings today, aiming to meet the "triple bottom line" by designing buildings that are affordable, protect the health and safety of the building occupants, and that respect our environment.

AIA Kansas opposes SB 150 because it is vague and open to interpretation. In preparing design and construction documents for buildings, architects specify products and materials based on client need and expectations. We design buildings based on products and materials meeting the requirements for building codes and standards. While there may be numerous manufacturers providing a similar product, it should be up to the design team to decide if the product meets the requirements of the project.

During the design process there are many decisions the design team and the client must make – most public buildings should typically perform for many years – hence the materials in the building need to be durable, easy to maintain, and reliable. However, materials for a storage facility probably would not have the same requirements.

AIA Kansas believes there are many problems with SB 150. Who should decide what is reasonable in a product or material? What is adequate and acceptable? Who should be the authority in answering these questions and making the decisions regarding building materials?

The design and construction of most buildings is a complex process. SB 150 would make the process fraught with problems, second guessing and potentially lengthy and costly litigation.

AIA Kansas urges you to reject SB 150. I'll be happy to stand for questions.