



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

House Committee on Taxation
Written Testimony Regarding HB 2019
February 4, 2015
Andy Tompkins, President and CEO

Good afternoon Chairman Kleeb and Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to provide neutral testimony on the proposed HB 2019.

As you know, the state universities under the governance of the Board of Regents are charged with operating and maintaining over two-thirds of the state's buildings and property. The law requires that the Regents develop a report on building inventory and deferred and annual maintenance every two years. This report, which has just been completed, indicates that the current amount of deferred maintenance on mission critical buildings built before 2007 is \$829 million. The minimum industry standard would indicate that we should be spending at least \$ 99 million per year to stay current with maintenance and repair. Currently, the Legislature appropriates approximately \$35 million per year which comes from a one mill statewide levy on taxable property. In addition to this amount, the universities have been spending an additional \$45 million out of their operating budgets to prevent greater deterioration of the state buildings. My point in providing this information is to note that we do have a need for additional funds to adequately meet the maintenance and repair of the state buildings and property under the stewardship of the universities and Board of Regents.

However, I must also note that this bill was not one of the priorities of the Board of Regents for this session. Additionally, the Board has not traditionally taken a position on funding sources the Legislature chooses to provide in support of the state's higher education system.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this information to the committee as it considers this proposal.