

KANSAS SENATE

DWAYNE UMBARGER

Senator, 14th District
State Capitol, Room 120-S
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 296-7389



FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT:

Patti Van Slyke
Communications Director:
Senate Office: (785) 296-2419

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SENATE UNVEILS COMPREHENSIVE DEFERRED MAINTENANCE PLAN

Topeka – As part of its Omnibus deliberations, the Senate Ways and Means Committee today approved a comprehensive, multi-year plan to fund deferred building maintenance on Kansas college campuses.

The plan provides \$525 million over the next five years for critical state university maintenance projects. In addition, after the first five years, the Senate plan provides an on-going annual revenue stream of \$110 million to allow proper maintenance of university buildings on a regular basis from that point forward.

Sen. Dwayne Umbarger (R-Thayer), Chairman of the Senate Ways and Means Committee stated, “From day one of the 2007 Legislative Session, we have been committed to addressing the problems caused by deferred maintenance on our college campuses. I’m very pleased the members of this committee worked diligently to come up with an effective and responsible plan that will allow us to correct the significant needs that exist and to stay on top of maintenance in the future.”

Ranking Minority member of Ways and Means, Senator Laura Kelly (D-Topeka) agreed with Umbarger saying, “This is a creative, bi-partisan effort that invests in our higher education infrastructure, now and into the future. It involves a commitment on the part of the state, the universities and provides incentives for private contributions.”

“As Chairman of the Senate President’s Task Force on Higher Education,” said Senator Jean Schodorf (R-Wichita), “It is good to see many of the task force recommendations included in the final package. I commend all who served on the task force as well as those on Ways and Means who worked so hard to put together an excellent finance package to deal with deferred maintenance.”

Among other things the Senate plan will:

Reduce the State's debt by re-paying bonds issued as part of the 1996 Crumbling Classrooms Initiative.

Provide a one-time \$45 million down payment in FY 2008 for high priority campus maintenance projects.

Provide an on-going source of revenue to the campuses through an annual \$10 million State General Fund revenue transfer.

Create an on-going state funding obligation that will increase to \$50 million per year, funded through increased state revenues.

Create a \$200 million no-interest revolving loan program for state universities, Washburn University, and for community colleges and technical colleges.

Create a Technology Upgrade Matching Fund to allow universities to leverage private dollars for important campus technology upgrades.

Implement significant building accountability requirements, require campuses to retire obsolete buildings, improve project efficiency, and stipulate project oversight and annual reporting requirements.

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