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## **Kansas Contractors Association**

Chairman Proehl and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to appear before you on behalf of The Kansas Contractors Association in support of House Bill 2775.

Transportation is an important industry in Kansas. The Federal Highway Administration estimates that for each dollar spent on infrastructure investments, more than \$5.20 is gained in economic benefit.

Infrastructure investments not only support our industry and the jobs contractors and suppliers provide, but also important economic growth for Kansas. In many Kansas towns where our contractors are located, they are the largest employer in the community. These are employees who purchase homes, eat in local restaurants, support local charities, and shop in local stores. We also know industries are attracted to regions by quality infrastructure.

When infrastructure investments are not made, the reverse is true. Our industry loses our workforce and the state loses taxpayers as our employees move to where the jobs are. Businesses leave to where the commerce is.

Like most businesses, our industry depends largely on stability and that's not the system that contractors are currently working under in Kansas. In fact, many contractors are seeking contracts for work outside of Kansas due to a lack of projects here in the state.

I am not standing before you today to rehash the recent history of diversions from KDOT to fund general government. I stand before you today, because the KCA believes it is time to change course in Kansas and begin the discussions about creating a transportation vision for Kansas and the infrastructure needs of our state.

Instead of discussing the diversion of over \$2 billion dollars away from transportation, lets talk about how the Kansas transportation industry can grow the Kansas economy by understanding the needs of the state, how we might be able to fund another highway plan and create a vision for the transportation future of Kansas.

This may require some hard conversations about State General Fund expenditures and State Highway Fund expenditures. Protecting appropriate funding for infrastructure should be an important goal of the joint committee. We believe that the transportation joint committee proposed in this bill represents an opportunity to ensure the remaining projects in T-WORKS are completed, address the emerging safety and maintenance needs among our Kansas communities, and to discuss the modernization and expansion needs of the Kansas highway system.

This is important work that will engage local communities, interested Kansans and people dedicated to creating a vision of economic growth for Kansas. The industry stands ready to work alongside legislators to build a vision for the state's transportation system that we can all be proud of.

Again, I thank you for allowing me to speak today and I encourage you to vote YES on HB 2775.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "White" clearly distinguishable.

Michael White  
Executive Director

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