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Kansas Contractors Association

Senate Education Committee
February 13, 2018
SB 352

Chair Baumgardner 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 Senate Bill 352.

The Kansas Contractors Association represents over 300 companies involved in the construction of highways, bridges and water treatment facilities in Kansas and the Midwest.

Infrastructure investments not only support the transportation industry and the jobs contractors and suppliers provide, but also important economic growth for Kansas.

When infrastructure investments are not made, the reverse is true. Like most businesses, the transportation industry depends largely on stability. As the transportation industry loses funding, to keep their workforce, many highway contractors seek work outside of Kansas due to a lack of projects in the state.

We applaud the effort outlined in SB 352 to move funding for non-highway construction purposes back to the State General Fund. Identifying and protecting appropriate funding for infrastructure should be an important goal of the Legislature.

We believe SB 352 is a good first step in addressing the annual transfer of over \$525 million from the State Highway Fund. The additional dollars in the State Highway Fund would better serve the purpose of the State Highway Fund by allowing KDOT to continue the T-Works program and fulfill the commitments to local communities established in T-Works.

KCA understands it will be very difficult for the Legislature to stop the extraordinary transfers from the State Highway Fund, unless a plan is established to begin transferring fewer and fewer dollars each year. If passed, SB 352 would begin that process. The KCA and the transportation industry stand ready to work alongside legislators and the governor to build a vision for the state's transportation system that all Kansans can be proud.

Again, I thank you for allowing me to speak today and I encourage you to vote YES on SB 352.

Michael White
Executive Director
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