

Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

Affiliated With The Building and Construction Trades Department

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January 24, 2018

Testimony in support of SB 285

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

I am Roger Beach with IBEW Local 124. Thank you for allowing me to appear before you today on behalf of the Greater KC Building & Construction Trades Council. We represent approximately 24,000 working men and women in the Kansas City Metropolitan area.

Transportation is a vital economic component for communities and families throughout the state. Infrastructure development means jobs for workers and more economic stability for Kansas families. In 2010, when Kansas passed the Transportation Works for Kansas (T-WORKS) program jobs were a key element of the program.

Since that time, 23 major projects are currently on hold and maintenance work continues to be delayed. With little state investments, contractors and their employers are forced to seek work in other states. This equates to reduced job opportunities and smaller economic return for investments for Kansas.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss ways that Kansas can continue the success of the past, to protect the infrastructure system and the jobs that come with building and maintaining a robust infrastructure system. We ask that the state prioritize the visioning of the future of transportation in the State of Kansas.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of SB 285.

Roger Beach

Vice President, Tri-County AFL-CIO

Building Trades Delegate

Business Representative, I.B.E.W. #124