



TESTIMONY

TO: SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

FROM: SCOTT HEIDNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF
KANSAS (ACEC KS)

RE: SB 203

DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2023

Chairman Billinger, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 203. I submit this on behalf of ACEC KS, the trade association representing private consulting engineering companies in Kansas.

ACEC KS supports the passage of SB 203. The infrastructure on university campuses is a critical resource for the state which is already under great strain to keep up with the maintenance which ensures a safe and robust learning environment for students at these institutions. SB 203 would help provide and sustain a funding level to meet those needs.

ACEC KS brings a private sector perspective to this discussion. The greatest challenge our firms face today is a shortage of educated engineers and designers. Refilling and maintaining this pipeline of badly needed professionals can't be solved with a single policy

initiative, but without a doubt attracting the best and brightest students to Kansas universities is one of the core pillars in meeting this need. To compete for these students our universities need to maintain infrastructure that is efficient, current, and safe. SB 203 would go a long way towards providing the resources to create and sustain just such an environment.

It should also be noted that these funds aren't just being provided in a vacuum. The Regents are in the middle of implementing a long and intense study of space needs and efficiencies on university campuses. While new infrastructure will be needed and much current infrastructure will need to be renovated and maintained, the Regents are also actively taking buildings and infrastructure off the grid to ensure they are operating in lean fashion and minimizing ongoing maintenance costs. They are truly right-sizing their infrastructure with an eye towards efficiency.

With that in mind, we encourage you to pass SB 203. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to submit our concerns.