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February 26, 2013

Senator Donovan and Members of the Assessment and TO:

Tax Committee

FROM: Trudy Aron, Executive Director

RE: Support of SB 183

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing the American Institute of Architects to provide this testimony in support of SB 183.

AIA Kansas is a statewide association of architects and intern architects. Most of our 680 members work in over 100 private practice architectural firms designing a variety of project types for both public and private clients. Our members are designing tomorrow's buildings today, aiming to meet the "triple bottom line" by designing buildings that are affordable, protect the health and safety of the building occupants, and that respect our environment.

AIA Kansas supports SB 183 that allows contractors to use the state's sales tax exemption when purchasing materials and services for construction and remodeling of state properties and facilities.

AIA Kansas has long held the belief that charging sales tax to governmental entities who themselves have exemptions does not make sense. By allowing the sales tax exemption, not only will costs be more certain, there will not be a contractor mark up on the cost of the materials plus the sales tax.

Therefore, AIA Kansas supports SB 183 and urges you to support it as well.

Thank you.