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TESTIMONY

TO: SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

RE: SB 224

DATE: MARCH 7, 2023

Chairman Thompson, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today on behalf of ACEC KS. ACEC KS is the trade association representing private consulting engineering companies in Kansas.

SB 224 addresses Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) issues. It is not the intent of ACEC KS to take a strong position regarding ESG in total, but we do have serious concerns about the details and real-world implications of ESG legislation depending on what is being considered.

To that end, we originally were going to testify as an opponent on SB 224. There is a concerning level of ambiguity about what restrictions the state would be in under when attempting to contract with businesses, specifically members of ACEC KS.



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However, it is our understanding that this committee will spend time reviewing RS 1490. On that understanding, we have switched our testimony to neutral. If it is the decision of this committee to advance legislation regarding ESG, we strongly encourage you to use RS 1490 as your starting point.

ACEC KS candidly does not desire or intend to be a part of the larger ESG questions. But our members do want ensure that legislation does not create ambiguity, create new liability, or significantly expand the regulatory oversight and therefore time and cost. We believe RS 1490 is the much better path towards addressing ESG while avoiding those potential pitfalls, and we encourage you to use that language as the basis of your discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today.