

Dear Honorable Committee,

My name is James Dietzel and I am a Senior Civil Engineer for IMEG Consultants Corp. For 15 years of my career (1999-2014), I worked at the Kansas Department of Transportation; and during that time, I spent the last eight of those years working side by side with Kris Norton and the other Road Design Leaders. While I haven't worked with Kris for more than a decade, he made an impression on me of such significance that I felt compelled to reach out to you today to provide my testimony for HB2263, supporting the dedication of a future K-10 Highway Interchange to Kris Norton, PE.

Kris' passion for our transportation system in Kansas focused on improving safety and creating economic development opportunities. He spent his entire life dedicated to the citizens of your great state. I can say with the utmost certainty that everyone involved with the planning and design of transportation projects in Kansas knew Kris. He designed hundreds of miles of highway during his career with KDOT. These included a variety of types of projects from roadway rehabilitations to bridge replacements to virgin ground highways. On every project, he strived to provide the most bang for the taxpayer's buck without sacrificing safety, comfort or quality. He was well respected and was an example of integrity for our industry. Kris mentored dozens of young engineers throughout his career, leading as an example of professionalism and dedication to helping improve the lives of Kansans. I am the person I am today, in part, because of the teachers and mentors like Kris that instilled these qualities in me, the same qualities that Kris emulated and instilled in those that worked with him. The people that worked for him enjoyed coming to work every day, and his forward thinking and optimistic attitude rubbed off on everyone. Personally, he was a dedicated family man, establishing personal relationships with his coworkers and making the atmosphere at the office a joy with his sense of humor. He lived in Kansas his entire life and, having attended the University of Kansas, he was the definition of "Rock Chalk".

If anyone deserves to be honored with the dedication of a future interchange on K-10, it's Kris.

I humbly thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Dietzel

James W. Dietzel, P.E.
IMEG | Senior Civil Engineer