

## **TESTIMONY**

**TO: SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

**RE: SB 35**

**POSITION: NEUTRAL**

**PRESENTED: WRITTEN ONLY**

**FROM: AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF KS**

**DATE: JANUARY 21, 2025**

**Madame Chair, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit these remarks on SB 35. My name is Scott Heidner, and I serve as the Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC KS). ACEC KS is the trade association representing private sector consulting engineering businesses. In this capacity, our members provide many critical services impacting infrastructure at our institutes of higher learning.**

**We are offering “neutral” testimony today with hope that some amendments to SB 35 might be considered. We are sensitive to the need and legislative priority given to lowering property taxes in Kansas. Certainly, we offer no objection to that goal. SB 35, however, in the process of lowering property taxes, would replace lost revenue for university infrastructure in an amount more than 10% below current expenditures and destined to fall further and further behind as the years go by.**

**The property tax revenue that currently goes towards this investment is only enough to account for a minority of needed expenditures. SB 35 would exacerbate this situation if passed as drafted.**

**The Kansas Board of Regents has submitted testimony with a series of changes for consideration which would help accomplish the drop in property tax without jeopardizing critical infrastructure at our universities. We encourage the Committee to consider those suggested changes. If adopted, we have no objection to SB 35 or its policy objectives.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to submit these remarks.**