



TESTIMONY

TO: SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**FROM: AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES
OF KANSAS (ACEC KS)**

RE: HB 2263

DATE: MARCH 13, 2025

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 2263. I'm Scott Heidner, and I present this in my role as the Executive Director of ACEC KS. ACEC KS represents private sector engineering companies in Kansas.

Kris Norton was recognized throughout the transportation industry in Kansas as a champion for staff development and project delivery at the Kansas Department of Transportation. Kris was personally responsible for the mentorship of many young engineers during their time at KDOT. These transportation professionals are now leaders within KDOT and within many of ACEC's member firms. The lessons Kris taught these project managers and industry leaders in creative problem solving, thoughtful budget management, and responsiveness to public sentiment have shaped project delivery over the past four KDOT transportation programs. Through his final days he continued to mentor KDOT's newest hires and emerging

leaders to help promote the strength of the Kansas transportation community for decades more to come.

Kris Norton also embodied the partnership between public agencies and private industry that ACEC and its member firms strive to achieve with our public partners. Over his career Kris managed billions of dollars of transportation investment utilizing both in-house KDOT staff and in partnership with consulting firms. Kris's firm but fair style of project management and oversight was welcomed by ACEC and its member firms and led to the efficient and effective investment of taxpayer dollars.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and we stand ready to provide any information or answer any questions that arise from today's hearing.