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*A Chapter of the American
Institute of Architects*

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TO: Representative Brown and Members of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee

FROM: Trudy Aron, Hon. AIA, CAE

RE: Opposition to HB 2515

Good afternoon Representative Brown and Members the Committee. I am Trudy Aron, Executive Director, of the American Institute of Architects in Kansas. Thank you for allowing us to testify in opposition to HB 2515.

AIA Kansas is a statewide association of architects and intern architects. Most of our 600 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:" buildings that are affordable, protect the health of the building occupants, and respect our environment.

AIA Kansas is not here to discuss the pros and cons of this legislation. Our concern is in Section 4, page 2 of the bill. This requires all contracts over \$100,000 to be bid through the Department of Administration. The design and construction industry has worked diligently with the Regents to allow the state universities the ability to bid non-state funded projects independently from the Department of Administration. This process is currently a pilot project; however, HB 2429 would remove the June 30, 2012 sunset provision and allow this process to become permanent. We are in support of the continuation of the process and of this bill.

AIA Kansas urges you to allow this process to continue. It is saving time (and subsequent money) for Regents projects that are not funded by the State. I'll be happy to answer questions. Thank you.