



February 4, 2013

The Honorable Kasha Kelley
Chair, House Education Committee
Kansas State Capitol
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members,

Please add Spirit AeroSystems to the chorus of those supporting an extension of the Kansas Postsecondary Technical Education Authority (TEA). A robust technical education system is critical to Spirit's ability to sustain and grow jobs in south central Kansas. We are extremely pleased with the progress and improvement in technical education since the TEA was established in 2007 and believe an extension of the TEA is imperative to continue the momentum.

The TEA has played a key role in developing technical education curriculum to support the needs of the Kansas economy and specifically the aerospace sector. We are very supportive of an extension based on the following efforts.

1. Aligning education with the needs of business and technical programs within the education
2. Enhancing system participation
3. Funding technical education strategically
4. Evaluating and measuring system effectiveness

The TEA has made significant progress in Career Technical Education initiatives over the past 5 years. However, there is still a considerable amount of work to be accomplished and we cannot afford to stop now. A vibrant technical education system providing a pipeline of highly skilled workers is a vital component to our industry's ability to maintain operations and grow aviation in Kansas.

On behalf of Spirit AeroSystems and its 11,000 Kansas employees, I respectfully request an extension of the TEA sunset, as well as continued funding for the TEA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Gann".

Debbie Gann
Vice President
Corporate Communications and Administration
Spirit AeroSystems