



TESTIMONY

TO: HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

**FROM: SCOTT HEIDNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES OF KS**

RE: SB 272

DATE: MARCH 12, 2024

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit supporting comments on SB 272 on behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies of KS (ACEC KS). ACEC KS is the trade organization representing private sector consulting engineering companies. We represent thousands of engineers and supporting staff at consulting companies across the state.

Aviation plays an incredibly important role in the Kansas economy, and as you have heard from previous presentations, the amount of outstanding needs to support and maintain this infrastructure has grown into the tens of millions of dollars a year. For several years the state highway fund has provided \$5 million annually to these aviation needs. While SB 272 would not cover all the pending needs, it would go a long way towards maintaining this critical Kansas infrastructure.

We would also note the strong collaboration on researching and proving the depth of these needs. KDOT, local airports, and private industry all spent considerable time and research to provide an accurate snapshot of this situation, and SB 272 is an excellent first step towards addressing the identified needs.

We encourage the Committee to pass SB 272 favorably. Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony.