



KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

March 18, 2011

Senator Carolyn McGinn, Chairwoman
Committee on Ways & Means
Statehouse, Room 545-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Senator Laura Kelly, Ranking Member
Committee on Ways & Means
Statehouse, Room 125-E
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairwoman McGinn and Ranking Member Kelly:

On behalf of the Kansas Board of Regents I write to you in support of SB 235, legislation that would create a multi-year program to directly address the critical workforce shortage of engineering graduates. This legislation would allow Kansas State University, the University of Kansas, and Wichita State University to expand their current capacity for educating engineering students in order to meet future workforce demands. The Board of Regents fully supports and endorses SB 235 and its goal to increase engineering graduates by 60% for the State of Kansas.

Recognizing the significant economic return and vital role engineering programs play for our state, Senate President Morris urged the Board to begin working on this initiative a few years ago, in a collaborative effort with our campus and industry leaders. We understand industries that employ engineers will be a major engine in the economic recovery of Kansas. Expanding the capacity for educating engineering students is an investment in the economic recovery of Kansas. According to a recent study conducted by Goss & Associates for the Board of Regents, it takes the State of Kansas less than three years to recoup the investment in an engineering graduate.

The Board of Regents welcomes the opportunity to administer the program that SB 235 would create to facilitate the development of human capital that meets increased needs of the state. Engineering graduates play a critical role in advancing the economic vitality of Kansas, and the Board is appreciative of the leadership and vision that has produced this university engineering initiative.

Thank you for your consideration and favorable support of SB 235.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andy Tompkins".

Dr. Andy Tompkins
President & CEO

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