



April 29, 2010

Sen. Steve Morris
State Capitol Room 333-E
300 West 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Sen. Morris,

As leaders of the boards of directors for alumni associations that collectively represent more than 406,000 Kansas alumni, we urge you to avoid making any additional cuts to the universities that serve as engines for personal and economic growth in our state.

We have each been successful in life thanks to the degrees we earned at our respective universities. That is also true of our fellow alumni, who have been able to give back in ways that grow the economy, create jobs, and enhance the quality of life of all Kansans.

Our state's universities have already taken more than \$100 million in cuts during the state budget crisis. This has resulted in the elimination of more than 450 academic programs and classes. And while all six institutions have streamlined operations to save money, the budget cuts have harmed the universities' central mission of educating students to meet the workforce needs of Kansas businesses, as well as their ability to carry out the research that leads to new technologies and industries.

We understand these are challenging times, but only by investing in our state's universities can we ensure Kansas is ready for the economic recovery. If that requires new revenue, we know our members would support such a move because they believe in the power of higher education to improve lives and grow the economy.

We urge you to avoid additional budget cuts that would threaten the ability of our alma maters to contribute to the growth and prosperity of Kansas.

Sincerely,

L. Russ Everhart, Overland Park
ESU Alumni Association

Brian DeWitt, Hays
FHSU Alumni Association

Jarold Boettcher, Manhattan
KSU Alumni Association

George Lampe, San Antonio
PSU Alumni Association

Sue Shields Watson, Wichita
KU Alumni Association

Ann Adrian, Newton
WU Alumni Association

Collin Stieben, Wichita
WSU Alumni Association