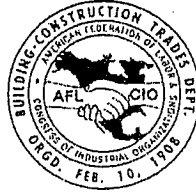


Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

Affiliated With The Building and Construction Trades Department

400 SOUTH MAIN
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI 64050

Terry Akins
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Treasurer



David Kendrick
Business Manager /
Financial Secretary
Victor Callahan
Education Director

January 26, 2012

Chairman Anthony Brown
House Commerce and Economic Development Committee
Topeka, KS

Re: House Bill 2515

To Our Legislators:

The Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council represent the interests of over 25,000 members and affiliates in Kansas and Missouri. We have serious concerns about legislation such as House Bill 2515. This bill places restrictions over the purchase of construction services established by those governing jurisdictions responsible to represent the taxpayer.

Performance requirements form the basis of the construction service industry. Of the variety of projects financed both privately and publicly each based on their complexity need to establish minimum requirements or qualifications of those retained to perform work. Unilateral legislative decisions that impose restrictions upon those responsible to provide a completed project that will serve their citizens tie the hands and limit their ability to fulfill the obligation. Buyers of construction services in the State of Kansas should have the ability to define the qualifications of bidders without restriction.

House bill 2515 has far reaching unintended consequences. Bid solicitation requirements can ultimately preclude the use of local area hire agreements impact the project effecting minimum work proficiency standards, safe workplace processes as well as documentation of on time project delivery experience history. These restrictions can disenfranchise local citizenry by excluding them from working on a project in their own back yard. Defining restrictive practices for purchase of construction services reduces the competitive nature of the construction industry. Those that invest in a qualified work force with the intent of providing quality services to their customers are no longer recognized for their investment to be a good citizen business for the state.

The purchaser of services using tax dollars needs the ability to set proficiency requirements for bidding contractors and provide the best service to the citizens of this state.

Secondly, placing a review requirement on the state government to oversee compliance with this act is adding costs to an existing overburdened underfunded government. We need to allow for smaller government rather than requiring every project over \$100,000 be reported to the Capitol for review of compliance. In these times of reduced budgets we need to regulate less expense and overhead of our government administrators. Those who purchase construction services in the state of Kansas should have at their disposal any and all processes available in order to represent their projects with the current most qualified methods available that provide quality products to their citizenry.

Arguments made over issues like this have not provided anything other than anecdotal evidence of harm.

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House Commerce & Economic
Development Committee

Date: 01/26/2012

Attachment #: 16

Public jurisdictions that have chosen to define the qualifications of bidding contractors have documented cost savings and efficiencies that are substantial. In a recent economic study published by the University of Missouri of Kansas City Department of Economics shows that defining qualifications' of performing contractors has saved monies in school construction and road construction resulting in reduced costs to the government.

While this act is referred to at the "competitive bid protection act" it is anything but protecting competitive bidding practices.

The Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council opposes House Bill 2515.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Kendrick".

David Kendrick, Secretary - Business Manager
Greater Kansas City Building Trades Council