

total interiors inc

February 6, 2017

Chairman Les Mason
House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee

RE: Testimony on HB 2185

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

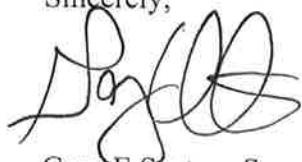
Total Interiors, Inc. has been a locally owned and operated company since 1974. We are a commercial specialty contractor and have operated out of Kansas City, KS since our inception. Our yearly volume is in the range of \$15M and 95% is done in the greater metropolitan area.

Our field employees are members of the carpenters', laborers' and painters' unions. We pay them union wages with full benefits on an hourly basis and believe they are compensated fairly for the work they perform.

We have largely discontinued bidding public projects in the state of Kansas because the lack of a prevailing wage does not allow us to be competitive on pricing due to the fact that many of our competitors, not being associated with our trade unions, do not pay a prevailing wage or benefits to their employees.

In our opinion, companies which do not pay a prevailing wage to their employees do not employ workers that are as highly skilled, productive and safety conscious as the companies that do, like ours. We think it would be a significant benefit to the Kansas City area and its workers to allow the prevailing wage decisions to be made on a county by county basis for this reason. We hope you will consider this as an alternative option. Please feel free to contact me if I can offer any additional insight or perspective on this matter. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Gary E Seaton, Sr.
President
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