



Testimony

Date: March 6, 2013

Before: The Senate Committee on Federal & State Affairs

By: John Holliday

Regarding SB227 –Enacting the Kansas Explosives Act

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Committee Members

My name is John Holliday, Operations Manager for the Central States Division of Austin Powder Company. I have been in the explosive industry since 1977 working for several companies. During my career I have held various positions including blaster and technical representative. I have served on the Technical board to the Institute of Makers of Explosives and the advisory board to the Research Center for Energetic Materials. Currently my responsibilities include the safety and operation of our storage, transport and shot service personnel and equipment. Austin Powder Company delivers explosive products to several customers within Kansas and performs blasting services to other customers.

I am opposed to this bill as written due to the potential for excessive or inordinate regulations. Well-meaning and well-intentioned regulations that are redundant at best and superfluous at worst are a hindrance to efficient and economical operations. Austin Powder Company places safety above all aspects of our company's operations, however I cannot support any legislation that would unnecessarily impose burdensome restrictions to safety without the complete input from all involved. I concur with others today that an Advisory Board should be established to provide an avenue for the establishment of any additional safety regulations

The explosive industry is in a state of rapid technical change and development. Many of the current regulations that are in effect from various State or Federal agencies have not necessarily kept pace. However industry practices, custom, and standard operating procedures are all a result of the commitment to safety. The Fire Marshall's Office is the ideal agency for oversight and management of regulations affecting the explosive industry within Kansas. The safe application of explosive technology is a vital part of economic development. I urge you to consider legislation that promotes rather than hinders future progress.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to present my comments.

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