



**Testimony before House Commerce Committee
House Bill 2515
Presented by Eric Stafford, Senior Director of Government Affairs**

Thursday, January 26, 2012

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford and I am the Senior Director of Government Affairs with the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for allowing us to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2515.

The Kansas Chamber strongly supports the efforts behind House Bill 2515 which would prohibit parties to publicly funded construction project from being forced to enter into a project labor agreement.

Kansas is a right to work state and any contract that would require the use of a specific labor affiliation as a pre-qualification for bidding goes against that right.

Publicly funded projects should be open to all qualified companies. Being a union signatory contractor or subcontractor should not be a qualifications-based requirement. Financial status, work experience and work quality can be and often are qualifications to bid on a project. If private parties choose to require a project labor agreement on privately funded projects, they should free to do so.

However, when using taxpayer dollars on a local or state level, additional safeguards are necessary to protect a transparent and fair bidding climate to avoid favoritism and corruption.

I would like to thank you for the chance to submit comments today in support of House Bill 2515.



The Kansas Chamber, with headquarters in Topeka, is the leading statewide pro-business advocacy group moving Kansas towards becoming the best state in America to do business. The Chamber represents small, medium and large employers all across Kansas.