

Labor-Management Council

of Greater Kansas City

January 26, 2012

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I.B.E.W. Local 124

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Building & Construction

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Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO

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Turner Construction Co.

Kevin Sexton

Business Manager

Plasterers' & Cement

Masons Local 518

Dear Members of the Commerce Committee,

Today you are scheduled to hear testimony on HB 2515 regarding government contracting processes. The Labor-Management Council of Greater Kansas City opposes this bill.

As a nonprofit association with many member organizations based in or active in Kansas, we are particularly concerned with economic growth and value for taxpayers in the state. We oppose HB 2515 because it would retard growth and harm Kansas taxpayers, contractors and workers.

While the intent of the bill seems to be to bar project labor agreements by government entities, it can also be read to exclude all union workers and contractors from bidding on Kansas governmental projects and those which access public funds. Such a law would be extremely unfair to Kansas taxpayers, including the thousands of highly-trained Kansas craftspersons and hundreds of contractors who employ them. It would be particularly unfair to all Kansas taxpayers because it would excessively restrict government from choosing the lowest and best bids by excluding an entire category of contractors and workers who are often the most qualified available.

Contractors who are signatory to union agreements and their craft union partners provide the highest-quality training available to thousands of Kansans each year. Many construction projects simply would not be possible without this pool of highly-skilled workers and experienced contractors. These workers and contractors are vital for Kansas economic development and job creation.

We do not advocate mandating project labor agreements or the use of only union contractors on public projects. Rather we strongly support a level playing field and open, professional contracting practices by government at all levels. Allowing all responsible contractors, particularly those employing Kansas workers, to bid on public projects and allowing a variety of options for delivery of construction services including project labor agreements saves Kansas taxpayers money and enhances the quality of those projects.

Whatever the intent of HB 2515, the exclusion of qualified contractors and workers from Kansas construction projects is not only unfair to thousands of Kansas workers but a blow to the interests of all Kansas taxpayers.

Thank you for your service to our state. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bob Jacobi

Bob Jacobi

Executive Director

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House Commerce & Economic
Development Committee

Date: 01/26/2012

Attachment #: 11

Below is a list of the Board of Directors and Member Organizations of the Labor-Management Council:

Board of Directors

Sam Alpert, Executive Director, Construction Users Council
 Jack Bainbridge, Business Manager, Heavy Construction Laborers Local 663
 Tim Bell, Laborers Local 1290
 Rosana Privitera Biondo, President, Mark One Electric Co., Inc.
 Sherwin Carroll, President, S.E.I.U. Local 1-Missouri Division
 Jed Cope, President & Business Manager, Teamsters Local 541
 Marcos DeLeon, Vice President, Health Policy and Government Relations, Truman Medical Centers
 Mike Kotubey, President, MMC Contractors
 Dave Lovetere, DST Realty
 Hon. Judy Morgan, Legislative Chair/PastPresident, KC Federation of Teachers/Missouri House of Representatives
 Gary O'Bannon, Human Resources Director, City of Kansas City, MO 64106
 Jim Prothe, Construction Manager, Kansas City Power & Light
 Chuck Tarpley, Business Manager, Plumbers Local 8

Consultants

Michael Fitzgerald, Attorney, Michael D. Fitzgerald P.C.
 The Rev. Frank Murphy, S.J., Professor Emeritus, Rockhurst University
 James Daley, Dean, Helzberg School of Management Rockhurst University

Member Organizations

A. Zahner Co.	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 124	Operative Plasterers & Cement Masons Local 518
Argosy Casino	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 412	Painters District Council 3
Arnold Newbold Winter & Jackson, P.C.*	J.E. Dunn Construction Co.	Pipefitters Local 533
Black & Veatch*	Jackson County	Plumbers Local 8
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City*	City of Kansas City, Mo.	Polsinelli Shughart*
Boilermakers Local 83	Kansas City Ballet	Rockhurst University*
Bricklayers Local 15	Kansas City Federation of Teachers 691	Roofers Local 20
Brotherhood Bank & Trust*	Kansas City Insulation Contractors	Service Employees International Union Local 1-Missouri
Builders' Association	Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber*	Sheet Metal Workers Local 2
Capital Electric Construction	Kansas City Kansas Board of Public Utilities	SMACNA-KC
Carpenters District Council	Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Sprinkler Fitters Local 314
Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City*	Kansas City Royals	Strategic Workplace Solutions*
Cigna Healthcare	The Kansas City Southern Railway	Taylor Kelly LLC
Construction Users Council*	Kansas Gas Service	Teamsters Local 541
DST Realty*	Kansas City Area Transportation Authority	Teamsters Local 838
Financial Counselors*	Kansas City Area Development Council*	Teamsters Local 955
Fire Fighters Local 42	Kiewit Power Constructors Co.	Tri-Council Labor Council
Full Employment Council*	The Konrath Group*	AFL-CIO of Eastern Kansas
General Motors	Laborers Local 1290	Truman Medical Center
George J. Shaw Construction Co.	Laborers-Employers Coop. & Education Trust	Turner Construction Co.
Greater Kansas City AFL-CIO	Mark One Electric Co., Inc.	Scout Investment Advisors
Greater Kansas City Building & Construction Trades Council	Marshall & Ilsley Trust Co.*	United Auto Workers Local 31
Greater Kansas City United Way*	McCown Gordon Construction Co.	United Food & Commercial Workers Local 2
Heat & Frost Insulators Local 27	Mechanical Contractors Association	United Healthcare
Heavy Construction Laborers Local 663.	Michael D. Fitzgerald P.C.	United Steelworkers Dist. 11
Hostess Brands	Missouri AFL-CIO	Walton Construction Co.
Husch Blackwell	Missouri Gas Energy	Working Families Friend*
City of Independence	MMC Contractors	The Weitz Co.
Independence School District	National Electrical Contractors Association	
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers		

*Associate Member