



**Testimony for the Kansas Senate Commerce Committee
Regarding Senate Bill 318**

Submitted by Bruce Tunnell, Executive Vice President Kansas AFL-CIO

Chair Wagle and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Kansas AFL-CIO. My name is Bruce Tunnell, and I am the Executive Vice President of the AFL-CIO.

The Kansas AFL-CIO supports Senate Bill 318 because it ensures that the investments Kansas taxpayers make pay off immediately by putting Kansans to work. This is a commonsense provision that is the equivalent of a "shop local" program for state government.

Not only are Kansas taxpayers better served when the Legislature reinvests their tax dollars into companies that employ Kansans, but the Legislature itself can be confident knowing that small, medium and large Kansas businesses will make sure Kansans get the best bang for the buck right here at home.

Senate Bill 318 also ensures that when STAR bonds and other tax incentive's are used to attract companies to Kansas that Kansas workers will see those jobs. It simply doesn't make sense for the Legislature to allow economic development tools funded by the Kansas taxpayers to be used to put people to work who don't live in Kansas, who don't shop in our stores and who don't intend to ever be a permanent part of any of our communities.

There are 50,000 Kansans who are still looking for work today, and Senate Bill 318 provides a simple, straightforward way for Kansans to be sure that their tax dollars are not being used to dig that hole any deeper.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of Senate Bill 318.

Senate Commerce Committee
Date: February 9, 2012

Attachment 4