

March 6, 2012

Senate Commerce Committee
300 SW 10th Street, 548-S
Topeka, KS 66612

Chairwoman Wagle and Senate Commerce Committee Members,

Please accept this as a letter in strong opposition to HB 2510, an amendment to the "Prison-Made Goods Act". The Smoky Hill Development Corporation, the economic development arm of Ellsworth County, has seen the benefits this program provides to not only our housing needs but our local economy.

As you know, when a new house is built in a community the ready-mix company, plumbers, electricians, and landscaping companies (to name a few) benefit. The houses being built by the Greenbush Vo-tech program offer those same industries the same benefit, however they are being bought by families that could not afford a manufactured home built by a private company.

Additionally, the Greenbush Vo-tech program provides Kansas inmates with a skill set allowing them to be much more employable once they are released from the prison system. It has been shown that when parolees are employed the recidivism rate drops drastically. This program not only benefits our local economy, but our state economy by helping parolees remain out of the prison system and employed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I will expound on my remarks during your committee hearing. If you have further questions I can be contacted at (785) 472-4136 or rob_fillion@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

Rob Fillion
Executive Director

Senate Commerce Committee

Date: March 7, 2012

Attachment 3