

# ABBOTT

## WORKHOLDING PRODUCTS

House Education Committee  
SB 22 - Extension of the postsecondary Technical Education Authority  
March 11, 2013

Dear Representative Kelly and Committee Members,

My name is Criss Mayfield and I am the Human Resource Manager for Abbott Workholding Products, Manhattan KS. I also serve on the Kansas Works State Board, as well as workforce related Advisory Boards in the Manhattan Chamber and Kansas Society for Human Resource Management. I am writing to express my strong support of SB 22.


As hiring manager, and former Manufacturing Manager, my major concern has always been the availability of a quality workforce. The quality of our product, and continuing success of this company is dependent on that well-trained workforce. Despite the increasing technical knowledge requirements, many small companies like ours may not have the resources to hire and develop untrained workers. It is essential that our State maintain a well coordinated Technical Education system.

It's been my privilege for many years to be involved in the Workforce Readiness effort, beginning with the early development of the Kansas WORKReady! Certificate. That Certificate is used by our Workforce Centers, and many potential employers to verify the basic skill levels in job applicants. Many other Industry-recognized Credentials have also been researched and adopted by our focus groups to quantify workforce readiness in the State of Kansas. These efforts are coordinated and standardized by the Technical Education Authority.

Creation of the Technical Education Authority was a major step forward in the continuing development of the workforce needed for a strong economic future in the State of Kansas. The recent Initiative by the Governor's Office to encourage the Career Technical Education for High School students was a significant enhancement to that system. The oversight and coordination of our Industry-Education-Government partnership, provided by the TEA, must continue.

I'm convinced this important work by the Technical Education Authority will continue to drive success for Kansas businesses and promote a healthy economy.

Thank you very much. I respectfully ask that you pass SB 22.

  
Criss Mayfield  
Director of Administration

430 McCall Road • Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
PHONE (785)776-8555 • FAX: (785)587-0004  
TOLL-FREE: 1-800-528-6459  
<http://www.abbottworkholding.com>

