



**SPEARS® MANUFACTURING CO.**

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2-14-2013

Mr. Chairman & Members;

Spears/Caney Inc. is owned and operated by Spears Manufacturing Company and has been a Kansas Corporation for over thirty years. We are located in Caney, Kansas which is in Montgomery County. We want to request your support of House Bill 2285. This bill is intended to clarify the definition of the machinery and equipment currently used in industry through out the great state of Kansas. We believe it is and has always been personal property and should be taxed as such.

Spears/Caney, Inc. produces plastic pipe fittings, valves, pipe and cement to support all plastic piping needs in the world today. We employ well over 400 employees and have enjoyed steady growth in the past 15 years. Most recently adding a 40,000 sq. ft. solvent cement plant in Caney.

Spears/Caney, Inc. is located on the Kansas/Oklahoma boarder in Montgomery County where taxation practices have changed to begin reclassifying commercial and industrial machinery and equipment as real estate. We firmly believe this is being attempted to off set the loss of revenue when Kansas stopped taxation of new machinery and equipment.

This type of change to our neighboring business is of great concern to us. We feel if this practice is successful for the county, our business will be next. With this threat of increased taxation, Spears/Caney, Inc. will not expand again in Kansas. If Montgomery County were ever to attempt their new method of reclassification

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toward our company, we will simply move our operations a few miles south of the Kansas state line.

In order to give our company the certainty of fair taxation as well as our neighboring companies, please vote to pass House Bill 2285. This support is critical to our future growth and success in this global environment.

Sincerely,

Geoff Collins  
Plant Manager  
Spears/Caney Inc.  
Spears Manufacturing Company