

Testimony to the Standing Committee on Commerce
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Chairman Lynn and members of the Committee

My name is Steve Douglass. I am president of D.V. Douglass Roofing, Inc located in Garden City. We are a commercial and residential roofing and sheet metal contractor. I am the current president and founding member of the Kansas Roofing Association as well as a past director of the Midwest Roofing Contractors Association.

I would like to testify in favor of Substitute HB2024.

In 2008 we had a severe hail storm in Garden City. As after storms in years past, the storm chasers, fly by nights and gypsy roofers swarmed in like locusts. With only a \$35 "license" fee from the city these people were set loose on the people of Garden City. The city building inspection department was overwhelmed and said it could be "months" before residences roofs would be able to be inspected by city officials. Obviously by then the non-local roofers would be long gone so if the final city inspection showed inferior work there would be no way to track them down to make good on their work. The proposed bill HB 2024 would give local building officials a very good weapon to combat this swarm. No registration: NO license or permits!

Less than 2 weeks after the storm, an 83 year old gentleman was talked into signing over his insurance check, which included other damages besides the roof, so the roofer "could get materials delivered and get started the next day". That was the last he ever saw of the roofer. The local lumber yard donated the materials and we took care of the labor to complete the job.

Also evident following the storm were contractors shipping in truckloads of shingles from out of state that there were very likely no Kansas Sales Tax paid on. To validate this, one of our salesman was told by one of these guys that they don't pay sales tax as the supplier they buy from does not charge sales tax for out-of-state shipments. This gives us "more profit" he was told.

Substitute HB 2024, while may not be perfect, will go a very long way in protecting Kansas citizens from fraudulent practices by preying out of state roofing contractors, help the State of Kansas collect the proper sales taxes and assist local building officials in screening of uninsured contractors.

I strongly urge the Committee to pass the very important legislation.

Steven L. Douglass