



February 17, 2015

House Commerce Chair Mark Hutton and House Committee Members
House Bill 2299 – State OSHA Plan

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Rean Wessels and I represent Lee Construction, Inc. We appreciate this committee's effort to study last year and pursue changes to how Kansas interacts with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Lee Construction strongly supports moving to a state run OSHA program. We would much rather work in a cooperative manner with fellow Kansans who have similar values and interests in our co-workers and neighbors' safety and well being than those who are required to report to an increasingly detached federal bureaucracy. **This is the same federal bureaucrats who told our industry in 2013 that they have been instructed to "WRITE OSHA CITATIONS TO JUSTIFY THEIR EXISTENCE"**

Lee Construction takes job-site safety very seriously and we spend a significant amount of time training our employees to work safely.

HB 2299 is about creating a Kansas solution to protect the safety of our workers on our job sites. We want a department that is accountable, fair and that operates with some common sense; who interacts with other Kansans with dignity and appreciation for the role business has in society. We also believe an appeals process through the Kansas DOL administrative process and Kansas district courts would provide an enhanced venue to help find common ground.

This bill is not about avoiding additional regulations as the Kansas Department of Labor report restates, a state run OSHA program must meet or exceed the existing provisions contained within the federal program in order to get approved.

Working cooperatively with Kansas's regulatory bodies, I believe can improve the safety of our job sites and promote the necessary collaboration to sustain job-site safety.

Sincerely,

Rean Wessels
Secretary/Treasurer