

Written Testimony

By the Kansas Contractors Association

before the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Committee

In opposition to HB 2299 regarding Kansas OSHA

February 17, 2015

The Kansas Contractors Association, which has been in existence since 1923, **represents over 300 companies** who are involved in the construction of roads and bridges, dams and water treatment facilities in all 105 counties of Kansas and some areas of the Midwest.

We rise in opposition to the establishment of a Kansas OSHA program. Our members have a decent relationship with the Federal OSHA program and would hate to see the program overtaken by a local operation. There are pros and cons to having local input but after much consideration, our organization endorses the Federal OSHA program over one that is home grown.

We worry there would be too much influence brought to the table if a local program were instituted. There is some distance afforded to our members if the program is administered by the feds instead of the state. We have had mixed results when the state takes over a federal program. In a majority of cases, the state program is much harsher than what we would have seen if the feds had continued their own regulation.

Secondly, we are concerned that the program would be fee based and that the cost of the program would be paid out of how many fines were levied instead of out fines that needed to be levied. It reminds us of the police officer in a small town who has to justify his/her existence by how many speeding tickets they write.

Thirdly, we recognize that even with the fees supporting the program the cost of a program may end up being 3 million dollars a year. Although it is a small amount, it appears to us that if there is a choice for spending money, we would much rather see the money spent on a better highway program instead of a state OSHA program that is already done quite well by the federal government.