



Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc.

HEADQUARTERS
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House Education Budget Committee Testimony opposing HB 2394 March 3, 2015

Madam Chair and Members of the Committee, I am Mike Gibson, Executive Vice-President of the Associated General Contractors of Kansas, which represents over 250 Kansas construction firms and their 8,000 employees and is recognized as the “Chamber of Commerce for the Construction Industry”, we would encourage you to oppose HB 2394.

AGC of Kansas has proven its dedication to growing Kansas jobs and training Kansas workers. Our association has contributed more than \$3 million dollars in the last 8 years to support Kansas construction training programs. The underlying systematic changes offered by the original SB 155 have structurally changed our relationships with Kansas educators by allowing them to be more nimble, removing programmatic barriers and creating a financial model which encourages participation. Simply said, this program is working and it is working well.

AGC of Kansas fully understands Kansas is having budgetary issues and this committee is mindful of reducing costs. Being mindful of which programs contribute to economic growth is critical to the State of Kansas moving from a recessionary state to one of growth. Our industry has traditionally been a leading indicator of our larger economic health and I’m here to state it would be counterproductive to place a restriction on training exactly when our industry is hiring and looking for ways to prepare for projects we know are being built in the near future.

AGC of Kansas is not telling you we have all the answers and we know for a fact the current \$1000 is the perfect amount to make this program work, however, we can tell you it is working well and we are concerned reducing the amount would impair the program.

Our Safety and Training Director, Cloys Bayless also submitted supplemental written testimony about his experiences as he travels the state for your review. Thank you for listening to our concerns and I would stand for any questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Mike Gibson

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