

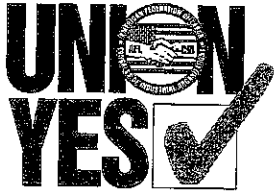
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TESTIMONY

HOUSE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

February 1, 2016

By Andy Sanchez, KS AFL-CIO

Thank you Chairman Hedke and members of the committee. I appreciate the opportunity to share our concerns on HB 2516. Our opposition to this bill is based on the rationale that asbestos is a proven health risk and the removal of asbestos is an established profession. No longer requiring a certification could pose a number of problems to the public.

Because the dangers of asbestos have been around for some time now, our own life experiences may cause many of us to believe that the general public is informed to know how to respond when they should run across asbestos, but that may not be the case. Certification does offer some degree of public accountability and that documentation is meaningful in an industry where class action lawsuits seem to go hand in hand. Just a quick search on the internet does offer some informative do's and don'ts for homeowners but we have to consider that relaxing standards now could lead to devastating circumstances for people in the future.

If certification described in this bill is to be abolished I would hope that we take more time to hear from industry experts and make sure we have thoroughly considered any and all side effects. At this time we have to oppose HB 2516 and would hope that at the most, this could be a topic for interim study. Thank you.

