

Local Control of Prevailing Wage HB 2185

Mr. Chairman and members of this governing body... thanks for allowing me to appear before you today to speak on the topic of Prevailing Wage.

I'm Mike Kane, President of Tri-County Labor and I'm also a Commissioner of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas.

I'm here today to speak in favor of House Bill 2185.

A State Representative made a statement a few years ago in one of these meetings that you could construct a safe bridge with only five people from a "Day Ready Job" and one knowledgeable foreman.

That is absolutely not true!!!!!!

We in Wyandotte County take great pride in our work and we are properly trained in several various tasks and skill sets. That training can take up to five years.

After the change in Prevailing Wage was made in 2013, we have had more unemployment than we've had in the past. And, the future does not look any brighter.

Village West, located in western Wyandotte County, was built with prevailing wage. Hollywood Casino is another high quality and successful development project that was built by prevailing wage.

There were a number of new contractors that came into the area after the state banned prevailing wage rules. The quality of work is not the same. Most new contractors only pay wages and provide minimum benefits to their workers and on top of that their workers are exposed to more safety issues.

I think one of the most disheartening things to see is all the license plates from out of the state; like Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and St. Louis, Missouri that are on the construction sites as a result of the prevailing wage ban. This bill forced several of our own local workers out of a job on the road to find work.

Studies have proven that people spend their hard earned dollar in the community that they live in and these contractors and workers don't live here.

All of you do not buy your car or have your oil changed by someone you don't know.

Please vote to all "Local Control". We feel we know what's best for "Our" community.

Thanks again for your time and consideration of my request. I stand for questions.