

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY
TO THE SENATE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 76**

by Dan Morgan for
The Builders' Association and the Kansas City Chapter, AGC

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Dan Morgan. I am the past president of the Builders' Association and former executive director of the Kansas City Chapter, Associated General Contractors. I now provide governmental affairs representation for these organizations in Kansas and I thank you for this opportunity to submit this written testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bill 76 on their behalf. The Builders' Association and KC Chapter, AGC represent nearly 900 general contractors, subcontractors and suppliers engaged in the commercial and industrial building construction industry in western Missouri and in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties in Kansas. About half of our members are located in the Kansas City area and are either domiciled in Kansas or perform work in the state.

Senate Bill 76 would effectively terminate the Johnson County Contractor Licensing program which has served participating cities in the county, their residents, and our industry very well since it was established in 2001. It would do so by limiting licensing fees to a maximum of \$25 per year. Some reasonable level of funding is essential to administering an effective licensing program and providing quality continuing education programs for licensees.

Quality licensing programs can provide real and lasting value to cities and counties that have them. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 76 also provides that a political subdivision's licensing authority shall not impose new occupational fees on any profession if that profession is not already subject to occupational fees, thus prohibiting such entities from adopting an effective contractor licensing program in the future if they so choose.

Our member contractor and staff representatives were very involved in the development of Johnson County's licensing program and we have been represented on the Contractor Licensing Review Board and the program's Education Committee since its inception. And, while much of the continuing education is building codes related, the Builders' Association has annually sponsored several non-code courses over the years such as OSHA and EPA safety training. While some in the industry were skeptical of the need for such a program when first proposed, our member contractors and subcontractors soon recognized its value and have embraced the program. It has enhanced our industry and helped to ensure that end users receive the benefit of quality construction put in place in a safe and proper manner.

The purpose of the program is to protect consumers by assuring that those undertaking the construction, alteration and demolition of structures are qualified to do so. This is accomplished by working in partnership with the construction industry and regulatory agencies, through administration of the uniform licensing system, and by providing continuing education to contractors, inspection professionals and licensed designers. I urge the committee to oppose Senate Bill 76 and thereby allow this valued program to continue serving participating communities in our area. Thank you very much.

Senate Fed and State Committee

Date 2-1-17

Attachment # 23