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**Testimony In Opposition to House Bill 2019**  
**Joe Hudson, Regional Political Director/Representative**  
**Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council**  
**March 15, 2023**

Chairman Peterson and Members of Senate Transportation Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in opposition to House Bill 2019.

The question with this bill is: Where does this end? You substitute “construction industry” for “transportation network” and now all construction workers will be denied workers’ compensation coverage, unemployment insurance, minimum wage, overtime and other protections. And, make no mistake, this bill will increase taxes on Kansans, as these rich app companies will be allowed to foist their obligations to pay employment taxes onto the backs of worker families.

Unfortunately, we know where this will end. Uber, Lyft and others are pushing legislation introduced in the US Congress (Worker Flexibility Act) that creates independent contractor status for all workers, simply by signing a so-called flexibility agreement. On top of that, the contracts are given the power to void all state and local wage and hour laws. So much for flexibility, the dignity of labor and state rights. That’s where this ends.

This bill, and Uber and Lyft’s proposed bill in Congress, assumes that there is equal bargaining power between a lone worker and massive, rich corporations. That is a fantasy. There is no bargaining. It’s sign this boilerplate contract into exploitation or stay unemployed and struggle to pay for your rent and groceries.

We know the proponents of bills like House Bill 2019 say that workers like independent contractor status because it gives them flexibility. That is a false choice. You can be an employee with flexible work hours. We see it in every other industry.

There are numerous complaints from app workers of low pay, pay that can be below the minimum wage. That’s where this ends, and it is not something that supports or expands a vibrant middle class. The Legislature should not endorse the practice of worker misclassification that allows tax avoidance and denies basic workplace protections. We urge the committee to oppose House Bill 2019.

Thank you.