

The Honorable Senator Julia Lynn, Chairman

Senate Commerce Committee
RE SB 212

Madam Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for allowing me to address you and your committee today in **opposition** to SB 212. I'm Ken Keller retired controller of Western Extralite Company. Western Extralite Company is a supplier of electrical material to the construction industry. I am also here on behalf of the Kansas City Chapter of the American Subcontractors Association.

An effort to establish a Kansas State OSHA plan is not new. In 2003 a plan for Kansas State OSHA was presented and it was determined to be a bad idea then and it still is today. The proposed plan has to maintain the Federal Standard. So why establish another governmental agency? Just more bureaucracy and regulations we don't need. We would be establishing another agency that makes its own rules and sets its own penalties without oversight. Business is now saddled with too many regulations. Why add more?

As mentioned above, the Kansas OSHA must maintain at least the Federal Standard, a program that has been in place over forty years. This means the Kansas Plan could be more burdensome than what we have today. The Feds aren't going away so this is nothing more than duplication. Keep in mind, this effects all industries, not just construction. Have others been consulted on this proposal?

The Department of Labor estimates the fiscal note on researching and submitting a plan will be \$250,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$2.7 million in fiscal year 2019 which includes adding 26 new employees. Thereafter they estimate the cost to implement the program to be \$2.4 million once it is approved. They go on to say for the first three years it will have to be funded out of the general fund. Money is tight in Kansas, why incur these costs when there is a program already in place?

We don't need more bureaucracy, and more regulations with little or no benefit to the subcontractor, supplier or industry as a whole? **I request you vote no on SB 212.**

Thank You
Ken Keller

Controller, Retired
Western Extralite Company.