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Submitted Testimony

By the Kansas Contractors Association before the House Federal and
State Affairs Committee regarding HB 2712

February 13, 2011

This is testimony from Bob Totten, Public Affairs Director for the Kansas Contractors Association. Our organization represents over 350 companies who are involved in the construction of highways and water treatment facilities in Kansas and the Midwest.

We support HB 2712 as a realistic solution to keeping workers employed in Kansas. This measure only encourages undocumented workers to apply for a federal work authorization card so they can continue to work. It is in compliance with the present policy of the federal government and will allow these workers who have been here in the state for over 5 years to apply to attain work. In addition, it will allow them to apply for a drivers license and become a legitimate part of the community they live in.

There are estimated to be only 45 thousand undocumented workers in Kansas and most...something like over 85 percent have been in Kansas for at least 5 years. In general, they are basically law abiding people who are here to work and grow their families. This legislation would help continue in that role without fear of deportation.

~~The Kansas Contractors rely on hard working individuals to build our roads and highways but it is getting harder and harder to find those qualified people to be involved especially in Southwest Kansas where unemployment is low. Through this legislation, we believe our work forces will be strengthened with good workers to help keep our businesses strong.~~

We urge you to support HB 2712

House Fed & State Affairs

Date: 2-14-12

Attachment 11