



WHEN QUALITY MEANS SAFETY.

Chairman Mason and Members of the Commerce, Labor and Economic Development committee,

Hello my name is Kevin Arnberger and I am a proponent for HB 2741. I'm an owner of a fire sprinkler company here in Kansas located in Great Bend and I'm a lifetime resident of Kansas. I got into the fire sprinkler trade in 1984 right out of high school. I worked for 3 non-union shops until February 1989 when the company that I worked for was bought out from a union shop. Whenever I had a question of 'Why are we installing this system like this', my foreman would say "It's what's in the book"; whenever I would ask other questions concerning the valves and hanger spacing the same answer, "It's what's in the book" The book I'm referring to is the NFPA 13 guild lines.

Once we were in the union we had to start in apprentice class and workshops which trained us for these questions we all had. We took many of tests and had to pass them. If not, your wages would not improve and you would not be working there for too many years.

Over the years of working on jobs I realized that the plumbers and electricians on the projects had to pass a block test from the state of Kansas to become journeymen. They would not let them on jobsites without these degrees and here as sprinkler installer there's NO requirements.

As fire sprinkler installers we are installing LIFE SAFETY equipment as per NFPA standards and the State of Kansas doesn't require any certification. I'm asking to start a certification program that will make all Installer pass to become a journeyman.

I know it takes a special strategy to happen before a bill gets passed but let's hope that nothing happens to one of our family members our friends that has to do with fire sprinklers in a building that was installed wrong and never caught.

Thank you.

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