



MISSOURI SENATE

DAN HEGEMAN
DISTRICT 12

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Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 270
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Director Patrick McKenna
Missouri Department of Transportation
Central Office
105 W. Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Commissioners and Director McKenna,

We are writing to express our support for sheltered workshops and their work to maintain Missouri's rest areas. We also wish to express concerns regarding the issuance of a new Request for Proposal (RFP) by the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) for janitorial services at Missouri's rest areas.

For nearly 30 years, sheltered workshops throughout the state have worked with the Missouri Department of Transportation to provide maintenance and janitorial services at Missouri's rest areas. This working relationship has certainly been beneficial for the state, as Missourians with special needs benefit from the steady employment and the traveling public feels welcome in Missouri due to our clean rest areas.

Over the years and through each prior maintenance or janitorial contract, MODOT has affirmatively sought to utilize sheltered workshops and the sheltered workshops have routinely adjusted to meet the needs and demands of MODOT. This beneficial relationship has been affirmed in prior RFP's, such as RFP 6-091230, which specified that "cleaning attendants must be certified workshop employees".

However, the most recent RFP that includes janitorial services contracts for rest areas no longer requires the use of sheltered workshop employees. Rather, RFP # 6-160630RJ, states the contract shall be awarded through a competitive bidding process to the low bidder and sheltered workshops are only given a 10% preference. From our perspective, this is a marked shift that devalues MODOT's relationship with sheltered workshops.

Sheltered workshops are valuable assets to our communities and their special needs employees are hardworking and dedicated to their job. For nearly 30 years, sheltered workshops have been successfully working with MODOT, to the benefit of all parties involved.

Therefore, on behalf of our constituents, we respectfully request that MODOT and the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission reevaluate the current RFP and better prioritize the relationship with Missouri's sheltered workshops.

Sincerely,

Dan Hegeman
12th District State Senator

Gina Walsh
13th District State Senator

Kurt Schaefer
19th District State Senator

Wayne Wallingford
27th District State Senator

Ryan Silvey
17th District State Senator

Bob Dixon
30th District State Senator

Gary Romine
3rd District State Senator

Dan Brown
16th District State Senator

Ron Richard
32nd District State Senator

Jeanie Riddle
10th District State Senator

Brian Munzlinger
18th District State Senator

Doug Libla
25th District State Senator

Mike Cunningham
33rd District State Senator

Bob Onder
2nd District State Senator