Outlook

Ordinance TMP-6642 - Sec. 3-437

From Emily Marsh <emarsh@wellner.com>
Date Thu 4/16/2026 4:22 PM
To Bough, Andrea <Andrea.Bough@kcmo.org>
Cc Foster, Katrina <Katrina.Foster@kcmo.org>; Public Testimony <Public.Testimony@kcmo.org>

Dear Councilmember Bough,

I am writing to express my deep concern with amending the Ordinance TMP-6642 as it pertains to the expansion of entities that can waive the requirements for M/WBE participation in the award of city contracts. I am the owner of Wellner Architects + Engineers which is a Woman Business Enterprise (WBE) located in Kansas City, and I believe that the expanded authority granted to economic development agencies will adversely affect the alignment of incentives and accountability. This amendment would be at the expense of equitable participation.

Please consider **not** supporting the amendment as it stands now at the upcoming City Council Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, April 21st. I would hope to have clarity on the points below before considering any change to the current ordinance.

- The extent to which waiver authority would be shared between City Council and economic development agencies
- How “best interests of the city” determinations will be defined and applied
- How good-faith effort requirements will be evaluated and enforced under the proposed framework

I respectfully urge you to retain City Council as the primary authority over M/WBE goal wavers for incentive-based projects. I believe to keep Kansas City’s growth both strong and inclusive we must maintain meaningful participation for minority and women-owned businesses. Thank you for considering the impact this ordinance will have on small businesses like mine.

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