

Ken Eshelman, Centennial Contractors Testimony
Monday, February 26, 2007
Texas House Government Reform Committee
House Bill 447

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to speak on House Bill 447. I am Ken Eshelman, with the Centennial Contractors Enterprises, Inc. Our company is one of the oldest and most experienced Job Order Contracting companies in the nation. As you know, the JOC process is a great benefit to citizens and taxpayers. Job Order Contracting also supports many small businesses, minority businesses, disadvantaged businesses – employing many thousands of people in Texas.

The JOC process gives public officials a key tool for efficiently and cost effectively handling the renovation, rehabilitation and repair of our public buildings and other public facilities.

Centennial supports all efforts to improve the fair and honest administration of the public contracting system. Regrettably, however, we feel that the current version of HB 447 unnecessarily harms the ability of Texas officials to use the JOC process and in the long run impacting many millions of people utilizing public facilities at schools, universities, municipalities in Texas. Therefore, at this time we are appearing against the bill. We have mentioned our concerns about the unintended consequences to JOC to the staff. We are preparing a list of the specific problems as well as specific alternate language to address the situation. We will be providing all of that to the staff this week for your consideration. And we are available to you or your staff at any time to discuss these possible revisions to the bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to our concerns.