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MASW
Since 1901

The Welfare of the People Shall be the Supreme Law

June 28, 2010

Statement in Opposition to HB 2 (2010 Special Session)

Hon. Timothy Flook, Chair, and members of the
House Job Creation and Economic Development Committee

For the record, my name is Bob Quinn; I am Executive Director of the Missouri Association for Social Welfare. MASW is opposed to HB 2.

HB 2 is going to pass, so we will be brief.

21 years ago, during the time I had the honor of serving in the House, Governor John Ashcroft called us into special session. He proposed a package of tax increases to offset an unfavorable court decision that was going to cost the state an unforeseen $150 million.

In his remarks to us, Gov. Ashcroft cited the harm that would be done to Missourians who count on the state for vital education, health and social services, if we just cut the $150 million from our budget without replacing it with new revenue.

Today, you are called into session during a time of far deeper, far more harmful cuts in vital state services. Budget cuts result in people with treatable mental and physical health conditions suffering without treatment. Our social service and education infrastructures are near collapse.

And so you are called into special session – NOT to address this tragic situation, but instead to offer tribute to multinational corporations in hopes they will smile upon us.

We believe Missouri would be a desirable place to locate factories and other centers of employment if we increased state revenue and invested in our people and our infrastructure, and this is a smarter strategy than throwing money at companies that may or may not decide to locate here.