

American Factory Direct Furniture

11710 E 23rd St South

Independence, MO 64055

Full Employment Council

Clyde McQueen –President

1740 Paseo

Kansas City, MO 64108

RE: Business Retention

The assistance I received from the Business Retention Coordinator was in many ways with my furniture retail store, American Factory Direct Furniture. First Carla Major met with me from the FEC. She was informative on subjects pertaining to the hiring of employees. She then directed me to Mike Shew who assisted me with business specifics and business plans. Mike ran demographics for our potential new location and the information was most valuable to our company. Then Jodi Krantz helped us meet with an individual for an energy audit which we should be receiving shortly. I appreciate all the involvement by all parties.

However, I was dissatisfied to hear that there are not many government programs to help small businesses in retail. I believe that the small business is what keeps this economy in flow and without grant programs to help new ones get started it discourages "little guys" to grow and gives the larger fish all the benefits. We received no tax breaks nor free handouts for our business but yet in Kansas a company like Nebraska Furniture can come in and receive many tax breaks, free land, etc and continue to grow bigger and bigger. I do not think it is fair to the small businesses to operate like that; it should be a fair game. Please consider incorporating some small business grants to even the playing field. Thanks for your consideration.

David Bateman Jr.

Owner/Manager

American Factory Direct Furniture

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