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## Schlitterbahn Water Park Filled with Broken Promises

Families encouraged to support local workers and boycott park

*Kansas City, Kansas, July 20, 2009* – When Schlitterbahn began discussions about building the water park in Kansas City, Kansas five years ago, the company promised the project would put local construction people to work. But like so many other times, it seems that once the public financing is secured, those promises go out the window. The owners have since brought in a new construction company out of Texas called Henry & Sons, which is owned by the same family that owns Schlitterbahn.

The project is expected to cost more than \$700 million dollars and the development has already been promised more than \$200-million dollars in Kansas STAR revenue bonds. Instead of employing local people, who would then spend the money in our local economy, Henry & Sons is bringing in workers from Texas to fill local jobs. “We think if hundreds of millions of dollars in public tax bonds are going to be handed out, then local workers should be used on the job,” stated Dave Wilson, with the Carpenters District Council of Kansas City & Vicinity.

Members of the Carpenters Union did work on the project at one time. However, the use of union labor ended after Henry & Sons was brought in, replacing Turner Construction as general contractor. At that point, Henry & Sons began importing its own workforce from Texas and subcontracting portions of the work to other contractors who brought in immigrant workers who were not paid prevailing wages--in violation of a requirement of Schlitterbahn's Development Agreement with the Unified Government. Henry & Sons could have hired local workers and paid them the required area standard wages, but chose not to do so.

Schlitterbahn chose to accept taxpayer dollars to help finance the project, promising jobs and economic development in return. We do not believe that the public financing would have been granted had Schlitterbahn disclosed that this new water park was going to be built using out-of-state people being paid below-standard wages. When Schlitterbahn chose to involve taxpayer dollars, with that choice came responsibility—the responsibility to conduct itself as a responsible community partner.

Schlitterbahn has broken its promises to the Unified Government, the labor community and the taxpayers of the State of Kansas. A private developer should not be able to make a big sales pitch as a means to obtain public financing and then once the money is committed, not have to follow through on its commitments to the community.

The Carpenters District Council of Kansas City & Vicinity is encouraging families to **support local workers** and to send Schlitterbahn a message by not patronizing the half-finished Schlitterbahn Water Park. More information is available at [www.supportlocalworkers.org](http://www.supportlocalworkers.org).

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