

3/14/16

HB313 PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WAGE RATES

I am against HB 313! By fostering an economy with a strong middle class, prevailing wages promote sound public sector budgets at all levels of government. Legislators have a choice between the construction industry high road and the low road that leads to less training, lower quality of ^{workmanship,} ~~poverty,~~ increased taxpayer burdens and reduced economic activity. Prevailing wage laws support a high road economy by establishing the skills needed to build quality infrastructure for a growing, technologically sophisticated, and competitive economy. The jobs affected by HB 313 will directly affect veterans and the fair wages they SHOULD earn from prevailing wages. A fair wage for a fair days work, does not get more simple then that!

Sincerely Wesley Canfield

10004 Goodnews Circle

Anchorage, Alaska

Good evening, my name is Brandon Calcaterra.

I am a proud Alaskan who has called Anchorage and Eagle River my home for 28 years. I attended grade school here and ultimately received a degree from UAA in Management Information Systems. I have a wife and three daughters. The reason I live here is because it's a great place to raise a family. The quality of life, I believe, is second to none. The surrounding community consists of great individuals and organizations. I believe I can raise my family here with a certain confidence that our local and State governments will continue to keep the quality of life at a high standard. And this is why I oppose HB 313

When workers are paid the State's prevailed rate, they are [8%] more likely to have health insurance. This is a tremendous boost to our community's morale by knowing that your neighbors and their kids are able to get the appropriate treatment if and when it's needed. When workers are paid the State's prevailed rate, they are [4%] more likely to have a retirement plan. The sense of security from having a retirement plan certainly eliminates day-to-day stresses for aging families and allows for a much more positive lifestyle to take hold.

We know that financial stress is a leading factor in divorces. And when marriages fail, the potential of domestic violence rises which makes neighborhoods less safe. Not to mention the cyclical affect this has on the young children and how they are often influenced by their surroundings. Construction workers in Prevailing Wage states earn 17% more than their counterparts in states without. I would much rather have my neighbors proud to send their children off to college because they can afford it than to have them earn a lower wage that could result in them relying on public assistance. Everybody suffers when public assistance programs are tapped into.

I hope you all will also oppose HB 313 and keep Alaska and our communities a place that I have enjoy calling home. I want my daughters to enjoy the same quality of life that my wife and I have.

Thank you for your time tonight.

Pat Falon

3313 w 64th Avenue

Anchorage, AK

Laborers Union Local 341

Good afternoon, Chairman Olson and Labor and Commerce members. I am asking you to not support this HB 313. Please vote against this.

The opponents of prevailing wage laws claim that repealing or weakening the wage policy will save tax payer dollars, yet 75% of recent peer-reviewed studies indicate that construction costs are not adversely affected by prevailing wages.

Also the prevailing wages perform an important economic development function by reducing the leakage of construction funds, jobs, income, and spending from the local economy.

A no vote insures, by fostering an economy with a strong middle class, prevailing wages promote sound public sector budgets at all levels of government. Legislators have a choice between this construction industry high road and the low road that leads to less training, lower quality workmanship, more waste and inefficiency at the worksites, higher levels of poverty, increased taxpayer burdens, and reduced economic activity.

Prevailing wage jobs promote local hiring and strong economies. The main purpose of a prevailing wage law is to protect local construction wage standards from distortions associated with publicly funded construction. By protecting local wages, prevailing wage laws also protect work for local contractors and employees. In states with average and strong prevailing wage policies, (like Alaska) locally based contractors perform a higher share of the work than in states with weak or no Prevailing Wage Jobs.

Military Veterans are employed in construction at a higher rate than other industries. They comprise a larger share of the construction workforce in Prevailing Wage States than in Non-prevailing wage states. So by voting no on HB 313 you would be supporting our Military in Alaska.

By raising the threshold to 75,000 dollars it is not a large savings, we are looking for to cut the fiscal budget. Please move on to the PFD and help get the state back on track. Please do not support this bill.

Thank you for your time.