



Connecticut Chapter

**Testimony by Lelah Campo, President
Associated Builders and Contractors of CT, Inc.**

Before The Commerce Committee - March 11, 2008

Re: Support - HB 5879 - An Act Concerning Prevailing Wage Postings

The Associated Builders and Contractors of CT (CT ABC) supports **HB 5879 - An Act Concerning Prevailing Wage Postings.**

Annually on July 1st Connecticut increases the prevailing wages for public construction projects that are over the threshold. A problem with this process is that construction companies must bid projects with no knowledge or control of what the wages will increase to each July 1.

For example, a contractor could bid a job as of March 31, 2008 using the only information available to him (the rates as of July 1, 2007). The contractor, in all likelihood, will not begin that project until September of 2008. By that point wages will have increased (as of July 1, 2008). If the project is an eighteen month project the contractor will experience another wage increase in 2009.

While it might seem that the contractor could estimate a cost of living increase, this is not always the case. At times we have seen wages go up 12% in one year - an increase that no one could have predicted.

We have proposed that Connecticut mirror the Massachusetts process. Massachusetts also raises their prevailing rates each year. However, their public bid packages provide the data for what the wages will be for the duration of the project allowing contractors to understand and project their payroll costs.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Lelah Campo at 860-529-5886.