

Ladies and Gentlemen of the General Assembly and Guests:

Good Morning.

I am here to testify on behalf of the Minority Construction Council, an organization designed to advocate for the minority contractors.

For the record, we oppose, the Senate Raised Bill, #537 – LCO No. 2648, Referred to Committee on Planning and Development, An Act Concerning Municipal Set-Aside Programs.

The Minority Construction Council has worked to increase the minority participation in the City of Hartford and the State of Connecticut. We have been instrumental in instituting programs in order to help both state and local agencies in meeting the legal requirements set forth by this legislative body.

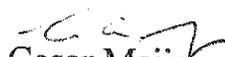
Bill #537 undermines and has the potential of destroying all of the hard work that the MCC and other organizations have orchestrated. The minority contractors who have worked to establish and grow their businesses should be given every opportunity possible to become a part of and contribute to the economics of this great state.

It is regrettable that the Set-Aside Programs that took years to legalize and ratify with much sacrifice on behalf of the minority contractors, will be diminished and destroyed in just a few sheets of paper.

At this stage of the game, it appears that the closer minority contractors get to the Goal Pole it moves further from their reach!

In conclusion, it should be the goals and desires of this body to increase minority participation by making programs to support and strengthen municipalities who want to enhance the capacity of the minority contractors. I stand here on behalf of every single minority contractor that would be effected by this bill. I profoundly object to bill #537.

Thank you,

  
Cesar Mejia

Executive Director, MCC